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Letter from the editor

The July morning began with a brilliant sunrise over the fields owned by the Northbrook Gun Club off Campbell Airport Road in Round Lake. Ralph Herbst and I were walking a fallow field across from the club house searching for nesting species for the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas. We spotted a fledgling Common Yellowthroat just as the wind began to blow strongly and a herd of thunderheads rapidly approached. As I ran through six-inch tall grasses toward the van a quarter mile away, a sparrow-sized bird suddenly flew from underneath my feet. I stopped, bent down and instinctively pulled back a tuft of last year's grass. There nestled in a tightly woven cup of dried vegetation was a single, soft blue Dickcissel egg.

The experience demonstrates an important characteristic of grassland species; their ability to go undetected just inches in

front of you. It makes searching for grassland species challenging and searching for proof of their nesting success even more challenging.

Grassland species are rapidly vanishing in our prairie state. In this issue, James Herkert of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board explores the history of grassland birds in Illinois offering insights into how and why the populations are changing. Also, Ann Haverstock explains how to find nesting grassland species such as the endangered Upland Sandpiper at the Nachusa Grasslands, an area managed and protected by the Nature Conservancy of Illinois.

I hope these articles inspire you to visit Nachusa this summer and also to get involved in conservation projects that will help protect the habitat these species need to survive.

Sheryl DeVore

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Meadowlark

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President's Message

Even though the spring bird count is over, you can still remain significantly involved in Illinois avian research throughout the summer. The Breeding Bird Atlas is done, but continued monitoring of nesting activity is needed. Consider surveying a site and sharing your breeding data with us.

Or, you might want to spend some time under a shady tree and write an article or create an illustration for Meadowlark. Start now, before you become distracted by those warbler chip notes heralding fall's arrival outside your window.

Eric Walters

ABOUT OUR COVER ILLUSTRATOR

IOS Art Editor **Denis Kania** drew the male and female Bobolink, a species which is rapidly declining as a nester in Illinois. Kania, a member of the Du Page Birding Club and American Birding Association, has exhibited his drawings at the Midwest Birding Symposium and in several states. He accepts commissioned work and can be contacted at: 1536 Preston Road, Naperville, IL 60563.

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Declining Neotropical Migrants

Illinois scientist searches for clues in state forests

by Peter Friederici

Scott Robinson walked through a lush forest laden with poisonous plants and biting insects, setting up mist nets to prepare for research on neotropical bird species. Robinson, a biologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, was not thousands of miles away doing research in one of our vanishing rain forests. Instead he was working much closer to home at the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. Although Robinson has spent much time researching birds in the tropics, his work studying the breeding success of neotropical migrants here in Illinois has placed him on the cutting edge of research. The burning issue in North American ornithology is one that links the tropics and our own temperate forests: What is causing the decline of neotropical migrants?

Robinson's work is reminiscent of that done in the tropics not only be-

cause of its newsworthiness and significant political import, but because the field conditions are similar. "The Shawnee National Forest is a mass of poison ivy and stinging nettles and tree falls and chiggers and ticks and mosquitoes," he said. "The field conditions are among the most difficult I've encountered. There are very few places in the tropics as demanding as southern Illinois."

"Over half the nests found by researchers contained at least one cowbird egg; 90 percent of Wood Thrush nests had been parasitized."

It is into these hot, humid, buggy conditions that Robinson has sent a dedicated corps of field assistants every summer since 1989. Their job: to census populations of songbirds, set up mist nets to determine population demographics, and search for nests to document reproductive success.

World Travelers

Those birds that breed in North America but winter in Central and South America or the Caribbean are known as neotropical migrants. Most are insectivorous species such as flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and tanagers. In the past few decades, anecdotal evidence shows that populations of many of these species have declined. Discovering why has not been easy.

An initial clue was provided by several long-term studies of forested areas in the eastern United States. Studies of eight relatively small woodlots from Connecticut to Illinois, begun in the 1940s, revealed declines both in number and abundance of species. Several species were extirpated from some woodlands. Among those showing the greatest declines were the Hooded Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, and Eastern Wood-Pewee.

Some ornithologists believed the destruction of tropical rain forests might be responsible for these declines. Most songbirds occur on their wintering grounds in much greater density than on their breeding territories, so the destruction of an acre of tropical forest might have the same impact on migratory songbirds as the destruction of five acres of Illinois forest.



The Ovenbird photographed by Todd Fink in Union County is among a group of neotropical migrants being studied at the Shawnee National Forest by Dr. Scott Robinson and a team of researchers.

If such deforestation meant fewer neotropical migrants could return north to breed, then their populations should be declining throughout North America. That was not the case, according to two studies in New Hampshire and the southern Appalachian Mountains. Researchers there found no significant decline in breeding populations in two extensive forest tracts.

It seemed the songbirds were disappearing only in areas of fragmented forest, which makes up the great majority of breeding habitat for forest species in the eastern U.S.

Seeking Causes

Robinson set out in 1985 to find out why. He began by studying three tracts of "small and extremely fragmented" woodlands near Lake Shelbyville. The woodlots, ranging in size from 35 to 170 acres, are islands in a sea of fields. Robinson censused the area extensively in 1985 and 1986; other birders have continued monitoring since then.

The results: drastic decreases in populations. Since the study's first year the populations of seven neotropical species have declined by at least 50 percent. Robinson found that 80 percent of all nests there were destroyed by predators; 76 percent of neotropical migrant nests were parasitized by cowbirds "the highest predation and parasitism rates ever recorded for a forest bird community," Robinson said. Of the birds trapped in mist nets in late summer, only 10 percent were juveniles, indicating very low rates of reproduction, he said.

Some predators of forest bird nests such as raccoons, snakes, and Blue Jays have greatly increased in numbers along with increased agriculture, suburbanization, and forest fragmentation. Cowbird numbers, too, have risen. The birds find abundant waste grain in the large fields characteristic of modern farming.

The Lake Shelbyville woodlots, it seemed, were not large enough to support self-sustaining populations of Wood Thrushes and other songbirds. Robinson thinks such woodlands may be "population sinks" that continue to support only those neotropical migrants that disperse from healthy populations elsewhere. To compare those fragments with a larger forest area, he began working in the Shawnee National Forest.



This Wood Thrush nest photographed by Todd Fink on 4 June 1991 in Union County contains three host eggs and two cowbird eggs. Cowbird parasitism is adversely affecting Wood Thrush nesting success in southern Illinois.

Illinois' Big Woods

The Shawnee is a quilt of diverse topography and land usage at Illinois' southern tip. Though it includes a few good-sized forest tracts, it too is largely fragmented. Clearcuts and agricultural fields create abundant edges within the forest.

Robinson's first finding there was that nest predation was less widespread in the Shawnee than at Lake Shelbyville. Predators found between 50 to 80 percent of nests. That was no surprise: some of the chief nest preda-

tors, such as grackles and crows, are associated more with open areas and forest edges than with forest interiors. Places still exist in the Shawnee where you are unlikely to see a crow or a grackle.

What was a surprise, though, was the abundance of cowbirds, also usually considered a bird of fields and edges. Robinson's nest searchers found as much cowbird brood parasitism in the forest interior as at the edges. Over half the nests found by researchers contained at least one cowbird egg; 90 percent of Wood Thrush nests had been parasitized. It seemed a wonder that there were any thrushes left in the Shawnee at all.

Robinson posits that both his study areas may be "saturated" with cowbirds; that is, they may currently support the maximum number of cowbirds that can use available hosts. That does not bode well for species like the Wood Thrush, which presumably continues to be found in both areas only because dispersing birds from other areas attempt to breed there.

These birds may be coming from other, far less fragmented national forests in Indiana and Missouri, where researchers have documented much lower rates of parasitism. Other species that seem to be facing the most severe threats are Scarlet and Summer Tanagers and Cerulean, Hooded, and Swainson's Warblers.

Cowbirds and the Future

Several reasons exist explaining why neotropical migrants are particularly susceptible to nest predation and parasitism. They tend to nest more or less in the open, either on the forest floor or among vegetation, but seldom in more protected cavities. And because they did not evolve in conjunction with cowbirds, most species have not learned to contend with brood parasitism by removing cowbird eggs from their nests or abandoning parasitized nests.

Species are variably affected by parasitism. Kentucky Warblers, White-eyed Vireos, and Acadian Flycatchers are not heavily affected by cowbirds. The different habitat requirements and nesting styles complicate researchers' work: what causes one species to decline may not affect another. The graduate students working under Robinson's guidance are currently working on six master's and two doctoral theses. Their research may help answer some of the basic demographic questions and may in turn tell us just how much fragmentation forest species can stand. For example, they are finding that Wood Thrushes may live longer than was formerly supposed.

Overall, the issue of fragmentation has become fairly clear. Fragmentation of forests leads to a decline in the abundance of many species that can-

not tolerate cowbird parasitism and elevated levels of nest predation. To support a healthy population of Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, Hooded Warblers, and other parasitism-susceptible species, a forest must have enough "interior" that cowbirds will not go there. That is not the case in the Shawnee, where clear-cutting has been a volatile political issue for several years.

Tropical deforestation remains "a very great threat in the long run," said Robinson, adding that "loss of wintering grounds will likely lead to a steady whittling away of the breeding population." With a lower base population to face the threats of nest predation and parasitism, the margin of survival will be that much thinner. What has become most clear is that conservation efforts need to be focused in a number of places if our

forests are to remain vibrant and alive with birds. ♪

Tanager Survey

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is seeking volunteer birders and bird clubs to conduct tanager surveys. Tanagers are among the most visible of the neotropical migrant species susceptible to forest fragmentation. The Laboratory began its "Tanagers in Forest Fragments" program in 1992 to document breeding success in woodlands of various sizes in New York. Now, it is being expanded to include the whole country, and all four species of tanagers that breed north of Mexico. To help, or for more information, contact Margaret Barker at 607-254-2427.

The Influence of Two Centuries of Habitat Change on Grassland Bird Populations in Illinois

by James R. Herkert, Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

The landscape of Illinois has changed considerably over the last 200 years. The once extensive, unbroken stretches of prairie have given way to agricultural crops, and this shift has had a substantial impact on the state's bird fauna. The aim of this paper is to examine how the grassland bird fauna of Illinois has responded to changes in the state's landscape.

Prior to European settlement, prairie occupied approximately 21 million acres in Illinois, covering nearly two-thirds of the state (Anderson 1970). Prairie occupied over 1.5 times as much area as forests, which at approximately 13.5 million acres was the next most abundant habitat type (Graber and Graber 1963). The com-

position of the pre-settlement bird fauna in Illinois is not well known. Current data; however, show that prairies support relatively low densities of breeding birds. Bird densities in tallgrass habitat average 7.5 pairs per 10 acres (Cody 1985). Comparable average density for eastern deciduous forests is 35.2 pairs per 10 acres (obtained from 87 breeding bird studies published in *American Birds* Volumes 37 and 38). Because of the low density of birds in prairie habitat, Graber and Graber (1963) estimated that only 35 - 40 percent of the pre-settlement bird fauna of Illinois was composed of grassland birds; forest birds, on the other hand, may have accounted for as much as 55 - 60 percent of the pre-settlement fauna.

Early Investigations of Grassland Birds

By the time much of Illinois' early ornithological work was conducted (1850 - 1900), considerable losses of prairie habitat had already occurred. By 1850 prairie habitat had been reduced to 5 million acres (Graber and Graber 1963), a reduction of approximately 75 percent or roughly 3.5 percent per year since 1810. We can therefore reasonably assume that some changes in the grassland bird fauna of Illinois occurred prior to any detailed study. Nevertheless, the works of Ridgway (1873, 1889, 1895) for central and southern Illinois and Nelson (1876) for northern Illinois

can be used to estimate grassland bird abundances in Illinois prior to 1900 (Table 1).

Several grassland bird species initially benefitted from the conversion of prairie to farmland. Those that benefited most include the Horned Lark, Vesper Sparrow, and Greater Prairie-chicken. The increase in Horned Larks and Vesper Sparrows was largely due to their ability to colonize and breed in cultivated habitats, which by 1900 had become the most abundant habitat type in the state (Graber and Graber 1963).

The initial opening of the prairies and forests to agriculture produced an intermixed pattern of food and cover that was beneficial to many species of upland game, including the Greater Prairie-chicken (Westemeier and Edwards 1987). This shift in habitat coupled perhaps with a reduction in the abundance of predatory animals allowed the Greater Prairie-chicken to reach a peak abundance within Illinois of approximately 10 million birds by 1860 (Westemeier 1986, Westemeier and Edwards 1987). The number is roughly equivalent to 175 birds/square mile throughout the entire state. Prairie-chickens started to decline soon after reaching their peak abundance. Nelson (1876) listed them as once excessively abundant but now rather scarce in the Chicago region, and as less numerous in all the more settled areas of the state due to egg collection by humans, unrestricted hunting, and loss of habitat.

During 1906 - 1909, a systematic survey of the state's birds was conducted by Alfred Gross and Howard Ray of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History, now the Illinois Natural History Survey (Forbes 1913, Forbes and Gross 1922). These surveys provided the first quantitative estimates of breeding bird populations within Illinois. A summary of the relative abundances of the most common grassland species encountered by Gross and Ray in ungrazed

grass, mixed-hay, and pasture from the north and central regions of Illinois are shown in Table 1. Gross and Ray found Bobolinks and meadowlarks (eastern and western combined) to be the most common bird species, accounting for over 50 percent of all birds encountered in these grassland habitats. Of the birds listed as abundant or very common by Ridgway (1889, 1895) and Nelson (1876), the Greater Prairie-chicken, Upland Sandpiper, and Henslow's Sparrow apparently experienced the greatest declines between the mid 1800s and the censuses of Gross and Ray. All three of these species were uncommon or rare by 1906.

"The Bobolink may now be the fastest declining songbird in Illinois with an average annual decline of nearly 20 percent per year for the period 1980 - 1989."

In the first paper addressing changes in Illinois bird fauna, Ridgway (1915) discussed changes that had taken place in the half century preceding 1915. He cites three grassland birds, the Greater Prairie-chicken, Upland Sandpiper, and Dickcissel, as experiencing serious declines during this period. The Greater Prairie-chicken and Upland Sandpiper were considered on the verge of elimination within Illinois because of shooting and destruction of nests by dogs and cats. The Dickcissel had also dramatically declined during this period for "unknown reasons" (Ridgway 1915). Ridgway first noted the Dickcissel's decrease around 1885 and stated that

by 1915 this species never reached more than one-fourth and usually less than one-tenth its former numbers. Coincidentally, Fretwell (1986) documented a seven-fold increase in grazing pressure between 1870 and 1884 on the Dickcissel's primary wintering grounds in Venezuela, a factor that he believed could significantly affect winter resources and, in turn, Dickcissel numbers.

In 1956-1958 the census routes of Gross and Ray were repeated by Richard and Jean Graber (1963) of the Illinois Natural History Survey (Table 1). The Grabers believed the Red-winged Blackbird, Horned Lark, and Dickcissel had shown large statewide population increases between 1909 and 1956.

Red-winged Blackbird numbers had almost doubled since the earlier censuses of Gross and Ray due to the ability of this species to invade nearly all terrestrial habitats within the state (Graber and Graber 1963). Ridgway (1889) noted that although very common, Red-winged Blackbird nests were always in or in very close proximity to a marsh or swamp. Gross and Ray found Red-winged Blackbirds in all the grassland habitats they censused in 1906 - 1909, although 60 percent of the state's population still nested in marshes (Graber and Graber 1963). From 1909 to 1956, Red-winged Blackbird densities within grassland habitats in Illinois increased nearly tenfold. Red-winged Blackbirds had become far more common in grasslands than they were in marshes, with individuals inhabiting marshes accounting for less than 3 percent of the state's population (Graber and Graber 1963).

The statewide increase in Horned Larks between 1909 and 1956 corresponded to their shift from primarily grassland to cultivated habitats, especially row-cropped fields. This switch from a rapidly declining to a rapidly increasing habitat greatly benefitted the Horned Lark, which Graber and Graber (1963) recognized

as the species that had increased most dramatically between 1909 and 1956. The Grabers attributed the Dickcissel's statewide increase in Illinois to an expansion in acreage of agriculturally disturbed grasslands, a type of habitat that this species may prefer over true prairie (Kendeigh 1941, Graber and Graber 1963, Zimmerman 1971). Most species of grassland birds, however, had shown

either little or no statewide population change between 1909 and 1956 (Graber and Graber 1963). The Bobolink, Song Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow showed slight increases, the Upland Sandpiper, and Field Sparrow slight decreases, and the Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and American Goldfinch no change.

Recent Investigations of Grassland Birds

Since 1987 I have been studying the breeding birds of Illinois grasslands. The field methods I use, however, differ from those used by Gross and Ray and the Grabers and consequently direct comparisons with their data are not possible. Nevertheless, a comparison of the relative abundances of these species suggests the current composition of Illinois' grassland bird fauna is probably very similar to that of the late 1950s (Table 1). The Red-winged Blackbird remains the most common species in Illinois grasslands, outnumbering the next most abundant species, the Eastern Meadowlark, by more than two to one. In fact, four of the five most abundant species are the same in both my recent surveys and those of the Grabers in the 1950s.

An estimate of how grassland bird numbers have changed since the Grabers' census can be obtained from data collected by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) cooperative breeding bird survey (Droege 1991). The USFWS data from Illinois for 1967-1989 show that nearly all grassland bird populations have declined during this 23-year interval (Table 1). One grassland bird species, the Bobolink, has declined by over 90 percent during this period. Analyses of more recent (1980-1989) USFWS bird data (Droege 1991) indicate that the decline of some of these grassland bird species has recently reversed while other species populations have stabilized, and a

few have intensified. Populations of the Eastern Meadowlark and Song Sparrow in Illinois significantly increased during the period 1980-1989 (Droege 1991). Additionally, earlier population declines exhibited by the Field Sparrow and American Goldfinch in Illinois may now have stabilized. However, populations of the Bobolink, Savanna Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat appear to have decreased during this period. One of these species, the Bobolink, may now be the fastest declining songbird in Illinois with an average annual decline of nearly 20 percent per year for the period 1980 - 1989. Unfortunately, the causes of these recent population declines are not well understood but probably are in part a consequence of the continued loss and degradation of grassland habitat within Illinois.

Although the initial loss of prairie habitat within Illinois was rapid and extensive, the reduction of grassland habitat has continued in recent decades. By 1978 less than 2,500 acres of high-quality prairie remained in the state (Schwegman 1983). The loss of prairie habitat was originally offset by the creation of secondary grasslands such as hayfields and pastures, habitats that a majority of grassland birds found suitable for breeding (Graber and Graber 1963). In fact, none of the characteristic birds of the eastern tallgrass prairie region are considered endemic to prairie habitat (Risser et al. 1981). Acreage of these secondary grassland habitats, however, has also recently declined. For example, the amount of hay within Illinois was reduced by more than half, from roughly 2.1 to 1.0 million acres, between 1960 and 1989 (Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service 1988, 1989). The amount of pasture within Illinois has also been greatly reduced, with pasture occupying only 1.5 million acres in 1987 (U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census 1989), compared with over 6 million acres in 1906.



Upland Sandpipers, very common in Illinois prior to 1900, now only nest in a few places throughout the state including the Joliet Arsenal in Will County where Joe B. Milosevich photographed a territorial male on 21 June 1991.

The continued loss of both native and agricultural grassland habitats in Illinois has contributed to an increasingly fragmented landscape.

Finally, we must remember that loss of prairie and grassland habitat in Illinois and throughout the Midwest affects birds primarily during the breeding season. The majority of grassland bird species are migratory and spend only a fraction of any given year on the breeding grounds. Similar losses and disturbances of wintering and possibly even migratory habitat may also significantly affect these bird species. The degree to which events off the breeding grounds affect grassland birds is not well known. For such species as the Dickcissel, however, events on the wintering grounds and migratory routes may be the most important factors affecting distribution and abundance patterns on the breeding grounds in the Midwest (Fretwell 1986). The fact that processes operating outside the boundaries of Illinois affect bird populations within the state does not excuse us from being concerned about events occurring within Illinois, but rather should alert us to the year-round needs of these species. If conservation efforts to preserve grassland birds are to succeed, management efforts must address not only processes operating on the breeding grounds within Illinois but the migratory and wintering needs of these species as well.

Acknowledgments

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Henslow's Sparrow was abundant in Illinois prior to 1900. Now the species is endangered in the state. Joe B. Milosevich photographed this territorial male Henslow's Sparrow on 29 June 1992 at Goose Lake Prairie State Park in Grundy County.

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TABLE 1.
Relative abundance of prairie birds within Illinois 1850-1989.

SPECIES	Prior to 1900 ¹	1906-09 ² % (rank)	1956-58 ³ % (rank)	1987-89 ⁴ % (rank)	USFWS ⁵ % change
Eastern Meadowlark	abundant	25.5 (2) ⁶	20.0 (2) ⁶	11.8 (2)	-67.0
Dickcissel	abundant	13.1 (3)	8.7 (4)	7.7 (5)	-46.7
Grasshopper Sparrow	abundant	5.9 (5)	5.3 (6)	8.6 (4)	-56.0
Bobolink	abundant	25.8 (1)	9.7 (3)	11.4 (3)	-90.4
Henslow's Sparrow	abundant	<1.0 (15)	<1.0 (14)	1.6 (12)	· ⁷
Red-winged Blackbird	very common	9.9 (4)	36.2 (1)	26.8 (1)	-18.8
Greater Prairie-chicken	very common	<1.0 (13)	0.0 (16)	0.0 (16)	· ⁷
Upland Sandpiper	very common	2.3 (9)	<1.0 (12)	<1.0 (13)	-16.8
Vesper Sparrow	common	1.3 (11)	1.4 (10)	<1.0 (15)	+12.1
Horned Lark	common	4.9 (6)	4.8 (7)	<1.0 (14)	0.0
Field Sparrow	common	4.0 (7)	2.9 (9)	5.6 (7)	-52.6
Song Sparrow	common	2.6 (8)	1.0 (11)	3.3 (10)	-29.3
Savannah Sparrow	common	2.3 (10)	5.8 (5)	3.5 (9)	-58.9
American Goldfinch	common	1.2 (12)	3.1 (8)	4.7 (8)	-42.8
Common Yellowthroat	common	<1.0 (14)	<1.0 (15)	5.8 (6)	-8.8
Sedge Wren	common	<1.0 (16)	<1.0 (13)	2.8 (11)	-22.5

¹ based on the works of Nelson (1876) and Ridgway (1873, 1889, 1895).

² based on the censuses of Gross and Ray from approximately 940 acres of ungrazed grass, mixed-hay, and pasture, located in northern and central Illinois (Forbes 1913, Forbes and Gross 1922).

³ based on the censuses of Graber and Graber (1963) from approximately 715 acres of ungrazed grass, mixed-hay, and pasture, located in northern and central Illinois.

⁴ based on censuses from the current study of approximately 1,000 acres of ungrazed prairie and agricultural grasslands in north-eastern and east-central Illinois.

⁵ estimated population change within Illinois between 1967-1989 based on United States Fish and Wildlife Service's breeding bird survey (USFWS, unpublished data).

⁶ relative abundance estimates are for Eastern and Western Meadowlarks combined.

⁷ present on too few routes for accurate trend analysis.



Editor's Note: James Herkert wrote this article for Meadowlark based on a previous article he wrote titled, "Prairie Birds of Illinois: Population Response to Two Centuries of Habitat Change," which was published by the Illinois Natural History Survey. The article appeared as a chapter in "Our Living Heritage: The Biological Resources of Illinois."

Grassland Opera

Rare species nest at Nachusa Grasslands

by Ann Haverstock

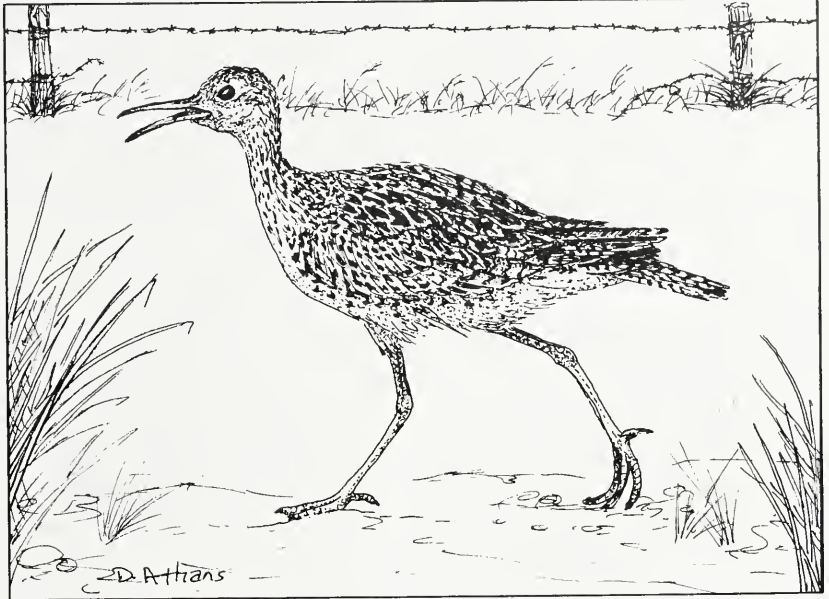
Early one summer morning as I approach the Nachusa Grasslands, I am compelled to roll down the car window to listen to the prairie. Sounds move across this grassland as they would across a quiet lake. In summer when birds are still active, the air is a riot of song - from the tinkling of Bobolinks to the soft buzz of the Grasshopper Sparrow.

Botanists drive the back roads of the grasslands located in Lee and Ogle counties near Dixon, Oregon, Rochelle, and Franklin Grove, to distinguish prairie remnants by the subtle color differences in the landscapes. Birders at Nachusa find what they are looking for by ear.

At least 90 species of summer birds including the Illinois-endangered Upland Sandpiper can be found on nearly 1,000 acres at Nachusa; many are discovered first by their song since grassland species are so secretive. June and July are the best months for birders to view grassland species at Nachusa, although Short-eared Owls can be found in September, Harris' Sparrows in October, and Goshawks in November.

Nachusa, acquired by the Illinois Nature Conservancy beginning in 1986, consists of sandstone outcrops, prairie, fen, marsh, creek, and savanna. A few of the paths are worn, but birders are welcome to wander anywhere on the property as long as they are careful not to disturb nesting species.

Embarking on a series of loops seems to be the best way to bird Nachusa. First-time visitors should take the loop at Coyote Point (No. 4 on Map 2). As you traipse through the



The Upland Sandpiper has been observed nesting at the Nachusa Grasslands. Drawing by David Athans

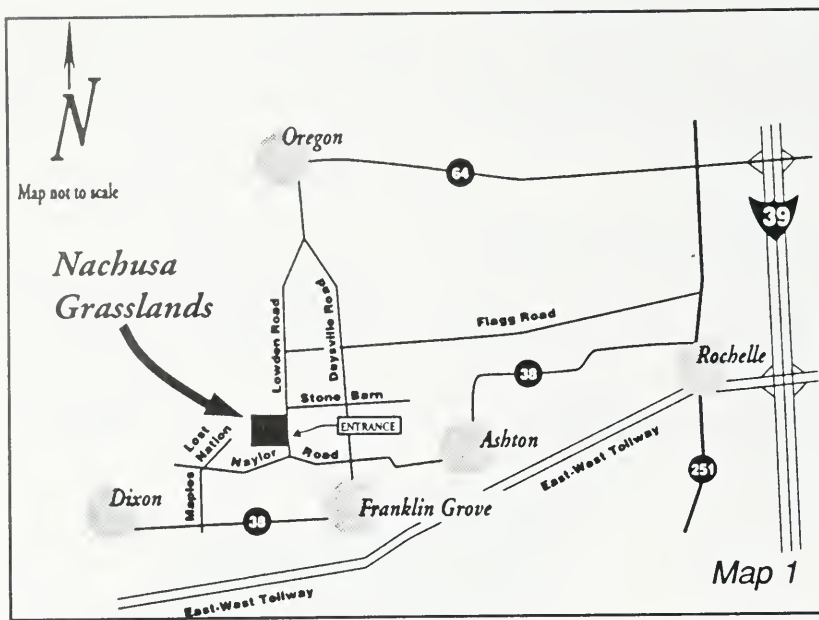
"In summer when birds are still active, the air is a riot of song - from the tinkling of Bobolinks to the soft buzz of the Grasshopper Sparrow."

prairie here, you will easily find the Grasshopper Sparrow, one of Nachusa's most common summer residents. Listen closely, and one of these little Pavarottis will "pi tup zeeee" for you. Note, too, the constant cadence of the Dickcissel's call, which can be heard from shrubby

snags and fence posts. His insistence will force you take a closer look.

With some luck, you may also hear the "wolf" whistle of the Upland Sandpiper. I call it a "wolf" whistle because it mimics that rude whistle grandmother told me to ignore. Best not to ignore it now. Only one nesting pair remains at Nachusa.

While monitoring Nachusa's breeding birds for three years, I wondered whether it was the male sandpiper giving the distinct call. I queried the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York and the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in North Dakota. Greg Budney of Cornell told me the male uses this whistle to attract mates and to defend territory. Listen, too, for another utterance of this species which sounds like puttering or a "quip-ip-ip-ip,"



and is used when the bird is distressed or disturbed.

Another singer in this grassland opera is the Lark Sparrow. I discovered two nesting pairs during my breeding survey. Their affinity to sandy soils attracts them to the saddles between the knobs. If you visit the grasslands in spring, you may catch some of their courtship behavior such as twig passing and male strutting. In 1990, these same semi-shrub depressions were home to the threatened Loggerhead Shrike and its offspring, but the species has not been detected since.

Be sure to check the former crop fields for Bobolinks and Horned Larks. As these fields are converted to tallgrass prairie, the Horned Larks will move, preferring soy bean fields to prairies.

The western edge of a crop field abuts the eastern edge of Coyote Point, and hidden among the tangles and oaks is a little seep. This small wet area surrounded by good cover attracts Bell's Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, and Yellow-breasted Chat, which have all maintained nesting territories for the last few breeding seasons.

The giant bur oaks here have also attracted two nesting pairs of Orchard Orioles, one a first spring male.

Coyote Point seems to beckon many species to stop and rest, so find a piece of shade, listen, and watch.

Continuing westward from Coyote Point, you will see high tension towers where resident Red-tail Hawks often perch, and a brushy fence line. Go beyond the fence and you will happen upon Wade Creek. If you do a little bush-whacking, you should be able to find a beaver dam. Eastern Bluebirds nest in some of the cavities of old broken willows here. It is nice to see them nesting in a historically correct home.

Since 1990, the state-threatened Veery has sung its woeful aria from the corners of this retreat. We have tried unsuccessfully to confirm its breeding, but remain full of hope for the coming season.

Return by swinging south of the wooded knoll that sits in the middle of the old crop field. This area was seeded in prairie grasses and forbs, and you may flush nesting Vesper Sparrows as you hike. You may even witness their wing-drag distraction display.

Take the high ridge back toward your car. It offers a different vantage point and a chance to view the state-endangered Northern Harrier. No harrier pair was seen during the summer of 1992, only a single female, but

perhaps she will return to nest in 1993.

The best reason to walk this ridge is to see and hear the Northern Mockingbird. He has been known to sing "whip-poor-will" as part of his mimicry.

Another possible loop into the grasslands is from the Stone Barn Road entrance. A small green and yellow Conservancy sign is attached to the fence. Park on the Stone Barn Road and walk the farm road between the two fields. You can wander the knobs or the neighboring savanna. Occasionally, Sedge Wrens have been found in the field south of Doug's Knob. A bit further on you should find the White-eyed Vireo and the Scarlet Tanager using the pools and riffles of Wade Creek.

In the lowland oak savanna, you can often hear the rising "Wheep" of the Great-crested Flycatcher, the "Drink-your-tea" call of a Rufous-sided Towhee, and the "Peter Peter," chant of the Tufted Titmouse.

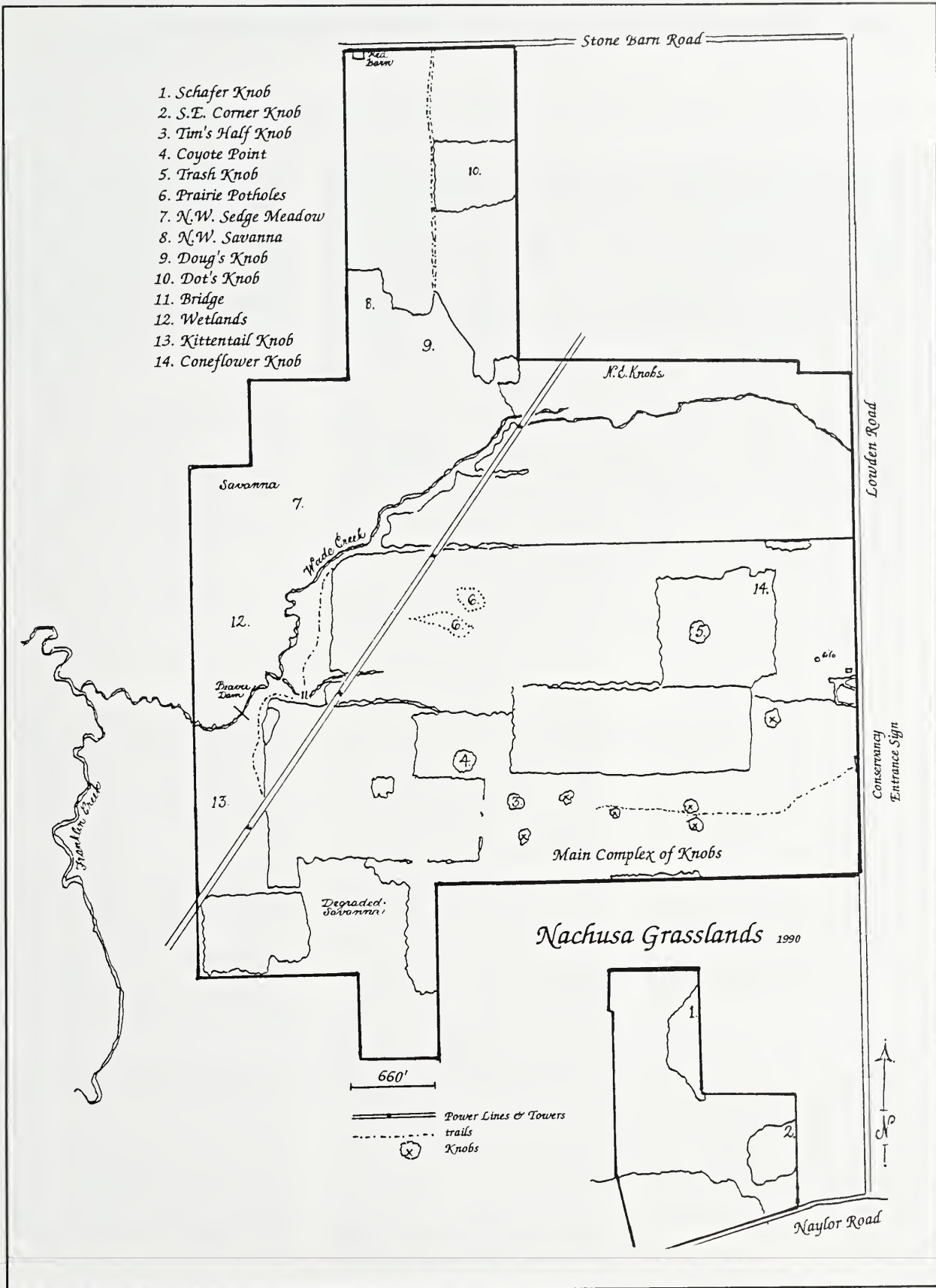
Stay until dusk and listen to Whip-poor-wills, Great-horned Owls, and coyotes.

If it were not for the neighbors who loved this piece of Illinois and the Nature Conservancy's willingness to buy it, we would have just another housing development on a pretty sand ridge instead of this prime grassland which attracts some rare avian species for us to enjoy. 🐾

Directions: *Nachusa Grasslands is in Lee/Ogle counties on Lowden Road, east of the Rock River, between the towns of Oregon and Dixon (See Map 1). Parking is available along the east side of Lowden*

Road near the entrance sign. No facilities are available at Nachusa, but you can find some at Franklin Creek State Park, due south on Twist Road.

Other information: *Bring water and head covering when visiting Nachusa in summer. Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts and be prepared for ticks.*



First Illinois Record of the Arctic Tern

by H. David Bohlen



Dennis Oehmke photographed the Arctic Tern on 29 June 1992 in Sangamon County. The sighting represents the first state record.

Among the few unconfirmed records of the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) for Illinois, is an immature I observed at the Cinder Flats at the north end of Lake Springfield (Sangamon Co.) on 3 October 1986. So it was with pleasure that I found another one, an adult, in the same place on 28 June 1992 and had it confirmed by photos.

The medium-sized tern had an all-red bill that was quite thick at the base

"In flight the outer underwing was translucent with a well defined thin dark stripe along the trailing edge."

and tapered to a droop at the end. The head was rounded when compared to a nearby Forster's Tern, and the black cap included the eyes and nape. The upper part of the cheek was whitish, with gray on the lower cheek. The gray, which varied considerably depending on lighting, extended to the throat, breast, and belly and blended into the white undertail coverts. The upper parts were the same gray as the underparts, except for two white crescents on the tertials and a white rump. The tail extended one inch or more beyond the wingtips at rest. I also noted a blackish outer edge on the outer tail feathers. The tarsi were short and reddish. In flight the outer underwing was translucent with a well defined thin dark stripe along the trailing edge.

This tern stayed until 1 July 1992 and was viewed by many birders and photographed by Dennis Oehmke and



Joe B. Milosevich captured this Arctic Tern in flight on 1 July 1992 at Cinder Flats, Lake Springfield in Sangamon County. Note the narrow dark gray trailing edge to the upper side of primaries.

Joe Milosevich (see photographs). The tern sat on the flats most of the time although occasionally it flew out to the lake to feed. It gave a rasping note while chasing a Green-backed Heron.

Another adult Arctic Tern was reported at Michigan City, Indiana in mid-July. Both of these birds may have been in the Midwest because of the nesting failure due to cold weather that occurred in the Arctic in the summer of 1992 (*Amer. Birds* 46:5. p. 1141).

- Illinois State Museum, 1920 S. 10 1/2 St., Springfield, IL 62706. ♣

Editor's note: If accepted by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC), this would be the first confirmed state record of this species which many observers believe is long overdue.

First Illinois Record of the Sandwich Tern

by Laurence C. Binford

As I sauntered north along Waukegan beach on 26 April 1989, my new Zeiss 10x40s in hand and 20x BALscope ashoulder, small flocks of gulls and terns rose, retreated, coalesced, and settled farther ahead. "Lake County's answer to an ocean beach," I thought as I side-stepped the piscine die-off littering the sandy shore and inhaled the pungent "smelt" in the air.

By the time I reached the foot of Greenwood Avenue at 10:30 a.m., the birds had concentrated into a tight mass, which I carefully scoped, identifying and counting each one - 170 Bonaparte's Gulls, about 30 immature Ring-billed Gulls, but not my nemesis state bird, a Laughing Gull. I wondered if I might find a state record Arctic Tern among the 15 Common Terns, but found two Forster's and a lone Caspian. As I was about to leave, I noticed a bird facing directly away that seemed paler-backed than the Bonaparte's Gulls, and, like that species, intermediate in bulk between Common and Caspian terns. Just then the bird turned its head, revealing a black bushy crest and a long, slender black bill with a . . . bright yellow tip!

Realizing there was no previous record of the Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) for Illinois, I endeavored to scrutinize every feather, first positioning myself so the hazy sun was over my right shoulder and eventually sneaking (as much as one can on a flat, open sandy beach) to within about 50 yards. Extracting some limp scraps of paper from my wallet, I took notes and drew sketches (Figure 1). Three times, the bird slowly stretched its wings over its back, and

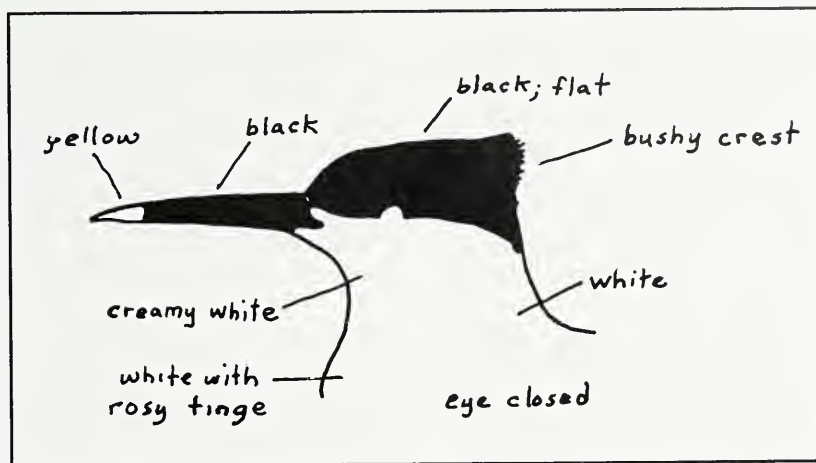


Figure 1. Sketch of Sandwich Tern seen on Waukegan beach, Lake County, 26 April 1989. Drawing by Laurence C. Binford.

the underwing pattern became a drawing. Several times, the bird flushed with the flock, and the all-white, moderately forked tail was recorded for posterity. I had the impression the bird had just arrived. It appeared far more nervous than the other birds in the flock, alertly eyeing its surroundings, often giving ground to its neighbors, and once glancing up to watch three Sharp-shinned Hawks circling southward with the 10 to 15 miles per hour north wind.

"Upon awakening, it preened, gaped several times, and stretched its wings."

Completing an hour of study, I reluctantly left the tern to phone Mary Biss, whose husband, Richard, operates the Chicago Audubon Society's

Bird Report. I knew the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) would not admit to the state list a one-observer sight record. We needed more witnesses! Mary spread the word.

At 1:15 p.m. I drove to the foot of Greenwood Avenue to await the arrival of other birders. Here, with a distant view of the flock across an intervening channel, I immediately spotted the sleeping Sandwich Tern amid a flock that now numbered some 500 birds. Upon awakening, it preened, gaped several times, and stretched its wings. I, too, stretched and yawned, then returned to my vigil.

But when I looked through the scope, the bird was gone. For half an hour I anxiously searched the flock of gulls and the terns feeding along the shore, but to no avail. This species is said to feed far offshore, and perhaps that is where it went, for it was never seen again.

Description

My detailed description is on file with IORC. The Waukegan bird was a typical adult in immaculate alternate (breeding) plumage as shown in most field guides. However, many species exhibit traits at variance with field guides and sometimes even with the technical literature. Indeed, the underparts were not pure white as usually depicted; the throat had a faint creamy tinge, and the breast and abdomen showed a pale rosy bloom. So evident was the cream color that I could use it to spot the sleeping tern among the many white-throated Bonaparte's Gulls. Also, the dorsal surfaces of the folded inner primaries were medium gray, neatly outlined with pale gray, almost white. Wing-tip darkness varies considerably as the pale gray bloom fades to reveal the underlying dark gray. Finally, when the bird closed its eyes, the lower eyelid produced a white semi-circular indentation in the lower outline of the black cap.

Identification

Written documentation of any rarity should include a section on elimination of similar species. Only one tern in the world resembles the Sandwich Tern, the Cayenne Tern of eastern South America. It is sometimes treated as a distinct species, *S. eurygnatha*, but because it interbreeds with *S. sandvicensis*, the two are now considered conspecific by most authorities (e.g. A.O.U. 1983). Typically, the Cayenne Tern has an all-yellow bill and yellow on the tarsus. However, because it varies considerably in these characteristics, for instance having varying amounts of black on the bill (or are variants actually hybrids?), I could not conclusively eliminate *eurygnatha*.

Other records

Before 1986 the Sandwich Tern

had been recorded only once in the inland states and provinces of North America, a bird collected over 100 years ago in spring 1882 at Lucknow, Ontario, near the southeastern coast of Lake Huron (A.O.U. 1983, DeSante and Pyle 1986). On 11 June 1986, Minnesota's first Sandwich Tern, an adult, remained one day and was photographed at Duluth (Kienholz and Backstrom 1986). Michigan's first was an adult seen on 31 July 1987 at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. (Tessen 1987). This record was accepted by the Michigan Bird Records Committee (J. Granlund in litt.).

During the next year, 1988, there were four records, all in Ontario. A bird was viewed for an hour on 24 April in east Hamilton Bay (Weir 1988a). One was seen on 17 May at Long Point (Weir 1988a). An adult was photographed and remained from 14 to 25 June at Presqu'ile Provincial Park (Weir 1988b). An adult was "nicely described" on 7 October at Niagara-on-the-Lake (Weir 1989). These four Ontario records were suspected of representing the same individual bird.

My Waukegan sighting, as noted, occurred the following year, 1989. The inland rarity of this species and its presence in consecutive years, with no immediately previous or subsequent records lead me to suspect that all seven 1986-1989 records pertain to the same individual which wandered through the Great Lakes, visiting Lakes Superior (1986), Michigan (1987 and again in 1989), Ontario (three locations in 1988), and Erie (1988), and adding itself to the state lists of Minnesota, Michigan, and finally Illinois.

The identification and wild origin of the Waukegan Sandwich Tern were accepted by IORC (R. Goetz in litt.). However, the species must remain on the state's hypothetical list as a one-observer sight record until hard evidence such as a specimen, photo, or tape recording is forthcoming. When

will I learn to carry a camera?

Hopefully we will not have to wait another 100 years before a Sandwich Tern again graces the Great Lakes.

Acknowledgments

Thanks go to Ronald E. Goetz, James Granlund, David B. Johnson, and H. Kaestner for information on Sandwich Tern records.

- 330 Grove St., Glencoe, IL 60022.

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First Fish Crow Nest in Illinois

by Vernon M. Kleen and John Schwegman

The Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) is somewhat of a new-comer to Illinois since "no Illinois sight records were established for this crow before 1962" (Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*.). Although the bird has now been recognized, at least by sound, in Illinois for 30 years, its official status as a nesting species remained limited to adults carrying food for young at a few locations along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in extreme southern counties. Birders, aware that an Illinois nest had never been reported, have been closely watching for the first Illinois record.

On 15 April 1992 while walking at Ft. Massac State Park in Massac County, John Schwegman saw a Fish Crow carrying nesting material. He also saw three Fish Crows sitting next to two large stick nests high up in two different sycamore trees just east of the fort in the park. Schwegman alerted the Illinois Department of Conservation Natural Heritage field and staff biologists.

Vernon Kleen revisited the site from noon to 1:30 p.m. 17 June 1992, approximately two months after Schwegman reported the nests. Upon arrival, Kleen noticed a pair of adult Fish Crows that appeared extremely disturbed, owing to their incessant calling. A few minutes later, Kleen discovered a young Fish Crow on the ground that had recently died. A short distance away, he found a second recently deceased young crow. A third young bird, still alive, but not yet capable of flight, stood on the ground a few yards away, head drooped and covered with flies. A fourth young, on the ground several more yards into the woods, was also found, its head drooped but not yet covered with flies.

The third young bird, when disturbed by Kleen's approach, regurgitated a moist food mass that included the head and bill of a swallow spe-

"Birders, aware that an Illinois nest had never been reported, have been closely watching for the first Illinois record."

cies. The two live young were retrieved, but soon died and were deposited at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield (specimen 1: male, No. 660293; specimen 2: unnumbered alcohol specimen - fide H. David Bohlen). The cause for the suspected early departure of these young Fish Crows from their nest is not known; however, it may be that they were blown out of their nest by the excessive winds of the previous day.

After diligent search, the actual nest was located less than ten feet from the top of one of the large sycamore trees (height undetermined) that Schwegman had reported. The nest was nearly overhead from the spot

where the first dead Fish Crow was discovered.

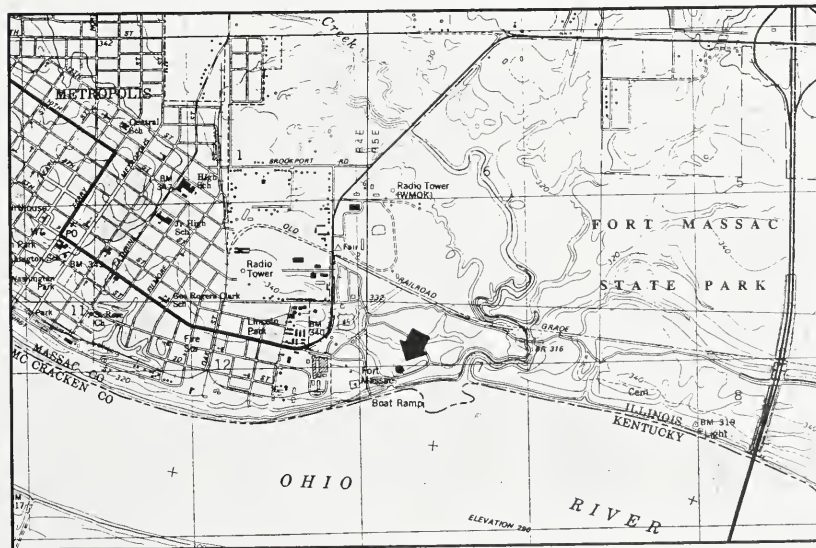
The nest tree measured three feet in diameter at chest height and leaned slightly to the northeast. Due to the extreme difficulty in locating the nest from any ground position, an exact nest description is not available; however, the nest was made of sticks, placed in a crotch that had at least one main and one or two lesser branches, and was positioned 22 feet southeast of the center of the trunk of the tree.

The nest tree was part of a forested area with bare ground as understory. It stood 320 feet north of the edge of the Ohio River, and 180 feet north of the inside edge of the paved road through the park.

Although Fish Crows have been regularly seen and heard in this area for several years, as well as at many other river locations in Illinois north to Adams County, the sighting represents the first reported record of an Illinois nest.

- Natural Heritage Division, Illinois Department of Conservation, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701. ➤

Site of Illinois' first Fish Crow nest.



Helpers at the Nest

Eastern Bluebirds and Tufted Titmice share parental duties

by Judy K. De Neal

The front yard bluebird box that over the years had attracted the temporary interest of Carolina Wrens, chickadees, titmice, and even bluebirds had been rejected by all prospective tenants. But on 16 June 1990, I noticed a few tufts of green moss sticking out of a crack at the bottom of the box. Nesting was well underway before I realized the box was occupied.

Imagine my surprise when I returned home one afternoon to find my husband and sons kneeling under the tree. Only the rear panel of the nest box was still in place, the rest knocked to ground by a wayward soccer ball. Four Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) nestlings had, by some miracle, survived the fall. Though the nest was upside down and disheveled, we managed to repair it and the box before replacing the young. Keeping watch from inside our house, we were much relieved when only a few minutes passed before the parents returned with food, apparently unaware of the near catastrophe.

After that I kept a somewhat closer eye on the titmouse

family. Several days later I saw a male Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) leave the nest box. He returned with a spider in his bill. He perched on the front of the box, as if he were offering the spider to the nestlings. Then he flew to a limb nearby still holding the spider where he perched momentarily before returning to the box with the index. This time he entered the box and remained inside for several seconds. His bill was empty when he flew out. Uncertain about what was happening, I continued to watch. The male bluebird returned with a small green caterpillar. Perching on the front of the box, he poked his head inside. His bill was empty when he flew away. A female bluebird arrived with another caterpillar and entered the box. Later while both bluebirds were gone, the titmouse parents returned separately with food.

The next day I saw the female bluebird enter the box several times without food. More alarming, though, was her habit of driving off the titmouse parents. The titmice always announced their return to the nest area by giving a call from a nearby perch, which was answered by

the young in the box. The female crouched, fluttered her wings, and gave a barely audible, high-pitched "see-see-see."

The male, however, gave a loud "peter-peter-peter" which carried all over the yard. Almost immediately the female bluebird returned to chase him away.

Alexander F. Skutch records some similar behav-

iors of Eastern Bluebirds in his book *Helpers at Birds' Nests* (University of Iowa Press, 1987). Juveniles of all North American species of bluebird (Eastern, Western, and Mountain) sometimes tend their siblings of a later brood in the same year. They may even help build the nest, but more commonly they bring food and a few clean the nest.

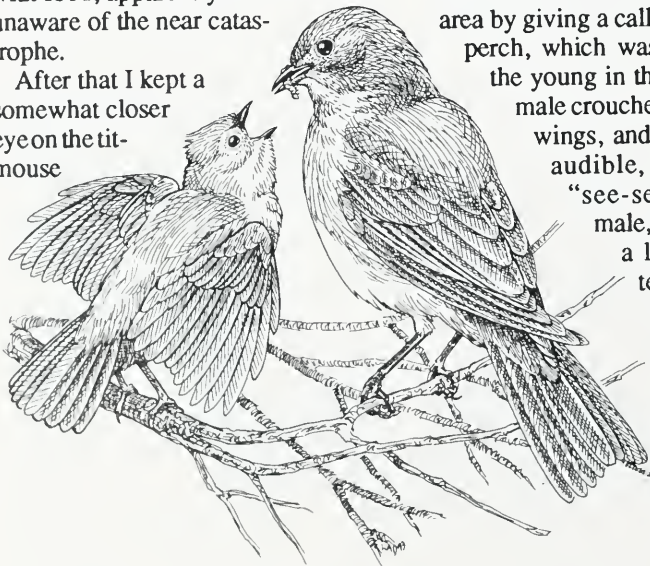
Less commonly, yearlings help their parents. In one instance a year old male Eastern Bluebird, having reared a brood of his own, returned to the territory of his parents where he helped them feed their second brood. Interestingly, two juveniles of the first brood were also helping at the nest.

There is a record of another adult male Eastern Bluebird feeding nestling Northern House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) until his own young were hatched. After that he tended his own young. Skutch records an incident that occurred in Florida when a pair of Eastern Bluebirds fed five young Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) despite the parents' objection, both before and after they left the nest.

Tufted Titmice occasionally have helpers, but occurrences are too rare to be listed among cooperative breeders. Skutch mentions one record of a pair who were helped by a Carolina Chickadee.

The drama in our yard caused me much worry but it had a happy ending. In the afternoon of the day the titmice fledged, a female bluebird began carrying new nesting material to the box just vacated by the titmice family. She successfully reared four young.

- 4240 Highway 34 So.,
Harrisburg, IL 62946.



Eastern Bluebirds feed nestling Tufted Titmice, Harrisburg, June 1990. Drawing by Leslie A. DeCoursey.

Distinguishing Illinois Nightjars

by Robert Hughes

In the twilight hours in a wooded area, the repetitive song begins. Whip-poor-will... Whip-poor-will... The bird is easily identified. The same goes for the Chuck-will's-widow, whose four-syllable song contrasts the three-syllable song of the Whip-poor-will. The other nightjar seen in Illinois, the Common Nighthawk, makes a striking nasal "peent," unlike any call of the other two.

One can safely identify nightjars by voice. But separating these cryptically-colored birds by sight during the day is more challenging.

This article discusses the visual characteristics that can be used to separate the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), which has long, pointed wings from Chuck-will's Widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*), and Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), the two round-winged nightjars occurring in Illinois.

A summer resident throughout Illinois, the Common Nighthawk arrives in late spring and departs in August. Stragglers occur in October. Chuck-will's-widow is restricted as a breeder to southern and sometimes central Illinois, although it does occur occasionally, mostly as a spring overshoot, in the northern part of the state. Its close cousin, the Whip-poor-will is more widespread, breeding in appropriate habitat such as coniferous and mixed woodlands throughout Illinois.

Nighthawks

As a group, the nighthawks can be recognized immediately by the presence of a white transverse bar on the outer part of each wing, most con-

spicuous in flight and not present in either of the round-winged nightjars. However, this bar can be hidden on a resting bird by the overlapping tertials or by leaves.

Also, the male Common Nighthawk has a white throat, a feature not shared with the round-winged nightjars. Females and immatures have buffy throats. Fortunately, more reliable field marks than these can be used to separate these two groups.

Facial Bristles

Nightjars possess modified feathers known as rictal bristles that run along the side of the face from the corners of the mouth. In the round-winged species, these bristles are thick and long, giving these birds a whiskered appearance that is obvious at close range. In the Common Nighthawk, at all ages and in all plumages, these bristles are small and obscure so that the facial region appears clean-shaven.

Primary Pattern and Color

The color and pattern of the prima-

ries offer excellent clues in separating these two groups. The primaries of the Common Nighthawk are, except for the white wing bar, solid, blackish-brown. Both the unmarked pattern and the color contrast strongly with the mottled, brownish gray body. On the round-winged nightjars, the primaries are barred with dark brown and rust, and thus more closely resemble the mottled brownish body.

Wing Length

Differences in wing length are obvious on resting individuals. The Common Nighthawk has longer wings which just reach the end of the tail, sometimes nearly concealing it. The round-winged nightjars, on the other hand, have shorter wings which fall noticeably short of the end of the tail, leaving the outer part of the tail exposed.

Crown Streaking

The crown in both round-winged nightjars has prominent longitudinal black streaks. Common Nighthawks have a dark crown with sparse buffy



Whip-poor-will by Eric Walters



Common Nighthawk by Walter Marcisz

spotting and no streaking.

To distinguish between the two round-winged species, use the following descriptive aids.

Size of Chuck vs. Whip

Chuck-will's-widow is longer and bulkier than the Whip-poor-will and has a massive head. The difference in size between the two is similar to the difference between Herring and Ring-billed Gulls.

Color Differences

Although the two species are superficially similar in color, Chuck-will's-widow tends to have a duskier, brownish-gray color overall, especially on the underparts. It is sometimes described as being reddish or buffy, but the study skins I examined did not exhibit this trait. The Whip-poor-will is paler, grayer, and exhibits more contrast, particularly on the crown, tail, and underparts.

The throat of the male Whip-poor-will is black, bordered below by a prominent, narrow white band or necklace. The female has a dark brown throat with a buffy necklace. Both sexes of the Chuck-will's-widow have a paler, buffy brown

throat with a pale buff or buffy-white necklace. Because of the darker underparts, a more noticeable contrast between these two areas exists in the Chuck-will's-widow. In addition, the throat of the Chuck often appears finely barred, a trait not shown by the Whip.

Tail Pattern

Male Whip-poor-wills exhibit white on both webs of the three outer tail feathers. On the male Chuck-will's-widow, the white on these same feathers is restricted to the inner webs. When the tail is spread (on the upperside), the Whip-poor-will shows large, unbroken white corners. Even if the tail is folded, the white is sometimes visible, a trait never shown by Chuck-will's-widow.

On the spread tail of a Chuck, the white is discontinuous, being separated into longitudinal strips by the brown outer webs. These differences can only be seen when the tail is spread. In females of both species, the tail lacks white and is essentially brown or buffy, with dark bars.

The outer three tail feathers of the Whip-poor-will are dark with boldly contrasting pale tips. The same feathers on the Chuck are mostly buffy-brown, lacking the strong contrast.

Crown Differences

The Whip-poor-will's crown is pale gray, while that of the Chuck-will's-widow is browner and darker. Thus contrast between the crown and dark brown back is more pronounced on the Whip-poor-will.

In both species, the crown is overlaid with longitudinal black streaks, the shapes of which are often a clue to identity. On the Whip-poor-will, the streaks, especially toward the center, tend to be thick and coalesced, while on the Chuck-will's-widow they are narrower.

Bill Color

On the museum skins I examined, the bill of the Chuck was bi-colored, the pale bases of both mandibles contrasting with the dark tip. The bill of the Whip was mostly dark, although the lower mandible was sometimes pale.

Facial Bristles

Bristles, which resemble stiff curved hairs, can be used to separate the species in the hand. The bristles of the Chuck have small side branches or filaments. Conversely, the bristles of the Whip are unbranched and bare. This characteristic requires a close look, but it is diagnostic.

While bird watching in Illinois this summer, test your skill at finding nightjars during the day and determining which of the three species you are seeing.

Thanks to Dr. David Willard of the Field Museum of Natural History/Chicago for allowing access to specimens.

- 696 Irving Park Road,
Chicago, IL 60613.



Ringed Turtle Doves at Illinois Feeders

by Sue Friscia

I was birding with Cindy Alberico one day when she mentioned that Ringed Turtle Doves are regular visitors at her feeder. Cindy was sure that they nested in the area because each year the population was increasing. My first reaction was, "I want to see them. NOW!" She assured me, however, there was no need to rush since this species, which is not native to Illinois, has not been accepted by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. In other words, I couldn't count them on my life list.

Ringed Turtle Doves, from either Africa or Eurasia, were first recorded in Los Angeles in 1909 (Bohlen 1989). Established populations can now be found in California, Florida, Texas, and Alabama. The native origin of this species is not known, although it is domesticated almost throughout the world (Terres 1991). Even so, it may be worth noting that this species seems to be establishing a breeding population in an area famous for its cold, windy winters.

Adult Ringed Turtle Doves are slightly larger and paler beige than Mourning Doves, have rounded tails with white in the corners, and a narrow black band on the hind neck. Their appearance may vary because different plumage types have been released. I enjoy their light-hearted "coo-ca-roo" which is quite different from the call of the Mourning Dove.

The following feeder watchers have reported Ringed Turtle Doves:

Joliet: Cindy Alberico has been feeding Ringed Turtle Doves since 1982. The population has grown to 50 or more. In 1991, she found a nest in an evergreen in her yard. One parent and fledgling appeared at the feeder.

Brookfield: Nancy Bent, an animal keeper at Brookfield Zoo, told me that doves have been there for 10 years and they are breeding. Last summer (1992) a pair used an old robin's nest, but the species is now being discouraged from nesting on zoo grounds.

Romeoville: Joan Ordowski saw her first dove in 1987. She has seen as many as 22 at her feeders. Fledglings have been observed even though she has found no evidence of nesting on her property.

Downers Grove: Sharon Tharp has had doves at her feeder since May 19, 1988, but hasn't noticed any evidence of breeding.

Downers Grove: During the summer of 1992, the Kummery family watched a nest in their yard, but the eggs never hatched.

Chicago: Dennis Lane observed one dove at his southwest side feeder for a few days during the summer of 1992.

Ringed Turtle Doves are becoming more common at Illinois feeders.

Sharon Tharp photographed the species visiting her feeder at 4937

Woodward Ave. in Downer's Grove on 3 May 1992.

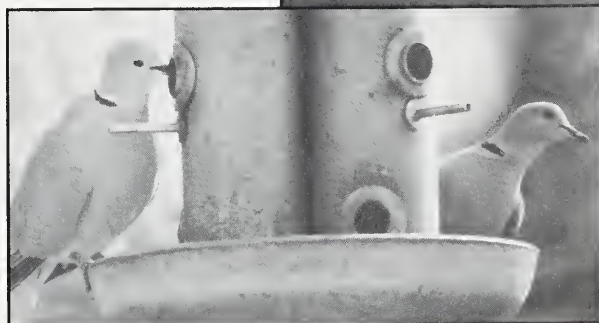
Please continue to send information on new sightings and updates on established areas. Send comments and questions to:

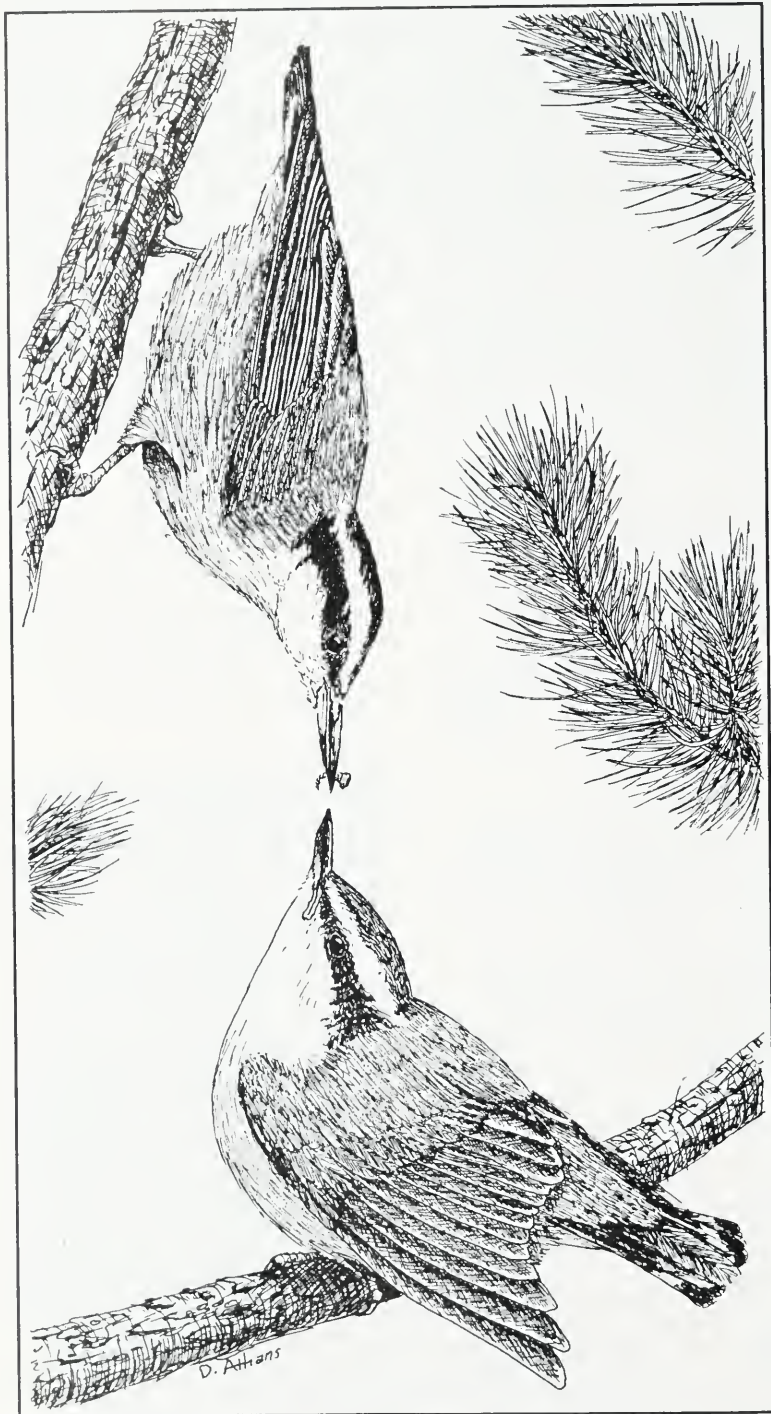
- Sue Friscia, 3417 W. 123rd St.
Alsip, IL 60658. 708-371-2124

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Red-breasted Nuthatches feed young at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County, July 1992. Drawing by David Athans.

Neotropic Cormorant at Crabtree and Palatine Marsh

The 1992 Cook County big year contest, sponsored by the Chicago Ornithological Society, provided many birders with a good excuse to explore areas they would otherwise ignore. For that reason, Chris Philip and I spent considerable time in northwestern Cook County which led to an interesting sighting.

On 28 June 1992 we were searching for Western Meadowlarks and other grassland birds. At about 7:30 a.m., our wanderings brought us near Palatine marsh on Palatine Rd. approximately 1/2 mile east of the Crabtree Nature Center entrance in Cook County. About 15 Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) were sitting in the trees on the south side of the marsh. One smaller cormorant immediately caught my attention. We got a telescope to take a closer look.

The cormorants sat obligingly, spreading their wings in the bright morning sunshine, while we carefully studied the smaller bird. Its short thin bill, small head, and long tail suggested it was a Neotropic Cormorant, formerly Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). Glare prevented us from seeing details. We moved down the road a bit where we were treated with a spectacular view of the bird, still perched in the tree. We saw that the gular pouch was small, acutely pointed to the rear, and surrounded by a thin white line. The scapular and back feathers were pointed. These features safely distinguish the Neotropic Cormorant from the Double-crested Cormorant.

After about 15 minutes, the cormorant flew toward Crabtree Lake. We and sev-

eral other birders saw the bird later that morning swimming in Crabtree Lake and sunning itself on the shore.

Although at times difficult to find, the cormorant was reported at both locations through 17 July 1992 and was seen by a large number of Chicago area birders, including nearly all of the Cook County big year participants.

- John O'Brien, S. Ellis Ave. #2, Chicago, IL 60615.

Neotropic Cormorant at Lake Renwick

On 6 July 1992 I photographed for the second time in six years a Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) at Lake Renwick located 1 1/2 miles southeast of Plainfield off U.S. Route 30 in Will County. The cormorant had sooty brown upper parts and lighter brown underparts. It exhibited prominent white neck plumes, a slender tail, and a small, peach-colored gular pouch outlined by a somewhat inconspicuous white border. Apparently, this cormorant matched the basic description of the Neotropic Cormorant that was present in the Palatine Marsh and Crabtree Lake area of Cook County from 28 June through 17 July 1992. These two cormorants represent the fourth and fifth state reports for Illinois.

The first record was that of a specimen taken near Cairo on 10 July 1878 (Bohlen 1989, *The Birds of Illinois*). The second record was of one in alternate (breeding) plumaged that I discovered and photographed at Lake Renwick in 1986. I monitored this bird's presence in the Plainfield/Joliet/Chanahan area from 22 Aug. through 5 Oct. 1986. An unconfirmed third record from Fermilab, Du Page

County, in 1989 is currently under review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC).

- Joe B. Milosevich, 2337 Ardaugh Avenue, Crest Hill, IL 60435.

Editor's note: The Lake Renwick and Crabtree Lake records are still pending review by IORC. Interestingly, Minnesota recorded its first state record during the summer of 1992 (The Loon 64:3, pp. 176-178).

Nesting Common Snipe at Wadsworth Prairie

On 14 May 1992 I found a Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) nest at Wadsworth Prairie in Lake County about one-half mile north of Wadsworth Road and 100 feet west of some railroad tracks. While working at the site as a Nature Conservancy volunteer checking flowering prairie plants, I flushed a Common Snipe from a tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) hummock located in the center of the lowest and wettest portion of the 200-300 acre prairie. Spring cress (*Cardamine bulbosa*) was flowering in this hummock and a small cluster of 6-foot-high willow shrubs was located approximately 50 feet from the nest site. The next day I returned to the site and photographed the nest and four eggs. I got quite close to the incubating female before she flushed. She fluttered through the sedges, giving a "broken-wing" act and some distraction or alarm calls. When she was 20 feet away, she left.

The Common Snipe is a rare summer resident in Illinois. Bohlen (1989, *The Birds of Illinois*) gives egg dates but cites only one actual nest for the state, a nest with young at Illinois

Beach State Park, Lake County on 21 May 1972. Because this species is listed as a game species by the Illinois Department of Conservation, it cannot be classified as a threatened or endangered breeding bird.

- James F. Steffen, 4210 Birch Dr., Apt. 2C, Zion, IL 60099.

Nesting Acadian Flycatchers in Joliet

In 12 years (1980 - 91) of June and July birding in Joliet's Pilcher Park, Will County, I had managed to locate only one Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*), a singing male on 6 June 1984. I was never able to rationalize this species' absence during the summer, because Pilcher Park's 327 acres of lush, ravine-cut upland and bottomland forests appear to be prime breeding habitat for this forest interior species. In fact, the Acadian Flycatcher was collected as a breeding species in the Pilcher Park area during the early 1900s by Meinke, Dewey, and Swarth for the Field Museum of Natural History (Joliet Park District, *Birds of the Arboretum and Adjacent Park Lands*, Third Annual Report, 1926).

Summer 1992 may, however, have marked the return of the Acadian Flycatcher to its former breeding haunts in Pilcher Park. During the period 8 June to 19 July, I found singing males at four locations and three nests and two females at two of these locations.

At the first location, one female Acadian Flycatcher apparently built two nests about 10 feet apart on opposite sides of a sloping blacktop path located in an upland ravine. Both nests were placed in modest-sized

maples about nine and 10 feet above the edges of the path. The nests were built in outer forks of horizontal branches. The first nest, located on 8 June, appeared incomplete even for a species whose nest typically resembles hanging debris. An unattended second nest found on 19 July was much bulkier. Although I was quite certain the first nest was never used, the outcome of the second nesting remains unknown.

At a second location on 19 July, adult Acadian Flycatchers were observed feeding young in a nest. This nest was built in classic Acadian Flycatcher "cup and streamer" fashion. The nest was placed 15 feet high in the crown of a small elm located in a deep ravine of an upland area.

These nestings will hopefully initiate a return of the Acadian Flycatcher to its historical breeding grounds in Pilcher Park.

- Joe B. Milosevich, 2337 Ardaugh Ave., Crest Hill, IL 60435.

Alder Flycatchers at Volo Bog and Spring Lake Nature Preserve

As the herbarium volunteer at Volo Bog State Natural Area at Ingleside, Lake County, I spend a great deal of time during spring and summer studying and enjoying the rare plants along the boardwalk, which passes through the heart of the bog. During late spring and into summer, I have also noted the resident and migrant birds that can be seen and heard there, some of which are rather uncommon elsewhere. On 28 May 1992, at about 10:00 a.m. on a bright, clear warm day, I was pleased to hear repeatedly the distinctive

"ree-BEEP!" of an Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*), my first for the 1992 season at Volo Bog. Although I was unable to see the bird, I heard it calling from the dense brushes across the center of the bog. This site was obviously a choice one for this particular individual, as I also noted him repeatedly singing from the same location on 4 June, 18 June, and 2 July. I also recorded a singing Alder Flycatcher at Volo Bog several times in June 1991.

Approximately 14 miles south of Volo Bog is the 560-acre Spring Lake Nature Preserve in Barrington Hills, Cook County where I have been a volunteer steward since 1986. I spent the mornings of 10 June and 12 June 1992 collecting data for the Cook County Nesting Season Bird Census conducted by the Chicago Audubon Society.

Among the 62 species recorded at Spring Lake during those two days were five singing Alder Flycatchers on 10 June and three on 12 June in the brushy dogwood border along the marsh and sedge meadow extending east from Bateman Road. I also heard two singing Alders at the same location on 28 May and again on 18 June while brush cutting and clover pulling along the marsh border. Unfortunately, I was not able to spend the time necessary to confirm their nesting status at Spring Lake. I will attempt to do so in 1993. The habitat available seems ideal for this species, and the territorial song behavior noted in 1992 suggests nesting.

- Margo Milde, 1206 Raleigh, Glenview, IL 60025.

Editor's Note: Bohlen (1989, The Birds of Illinois) cites Graber et al. (1974, Illinois Birds: Tyrannidae, Illinois Natural History Survey Bio-

logical Notes 86.) that there is no firm evidence for this species nesting in Illinois. "Firm evidence" refers to Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas criteria such as nest building, nest with eggs, adults carrying food for young, an adult carrying a fecal sac, or an adult on a nest. Bohlen also said that "spring migration is late...extending into July." Perhaps mounting evidence such as these two reports and other past Volo Bog summer records might soon confirm breeding of this species in our state.

Red-breasted Nuthatches Feed Young at Illinois Beach State Park

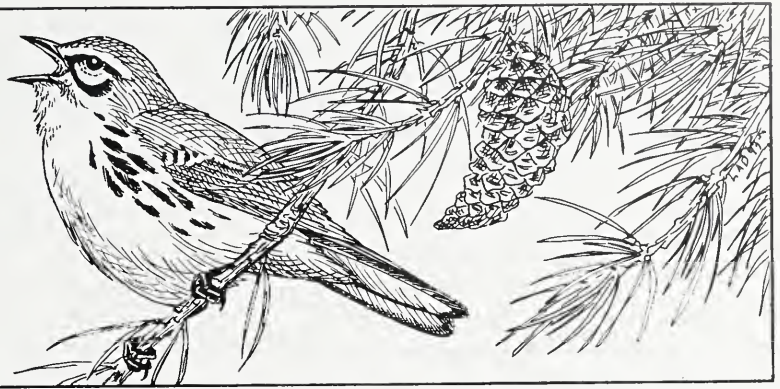
On 5 July 1992 we saw two adult Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) at Illinois Beach State Park in Lake County in a small pine tree. These birds were 15 to 20 feet high feeding an immature bird that was performing the characteristic wing-fluttering begging act for food. This sighting was in the extensive stand of Austrian and Scotch pines approximately 250 yards south of the Dead River and 200 yards west of Lake Michigan. These birds were seen at a distance of 20-25 feet for three to five minutes. Bohlen (1989, *The Birds of Illinois*) considers this species a rare summer resident and cites one summer record from Lake County (also IBSP) on 10 July 1981.

- Jeff Sanders, 1577 Winnetka Rd., Glenview, IL 60025;

- Gerald Rosenband, 9444 Kedvale Ave., Skokie, IL 60076.



Field Notes



1992 BREEDING SEASON

by Vernon M. Kleen

The 1992 Breeding Season was not the same without the Breeding Bird Atlas Project of the past six years. Still, some rare finds made for an exciting season. The only known intensive birding activities reported this year were Scott Robinson's continued project in western Union County (see lead article in this issue) and his new project in Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, the annual U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey (Route 64 in Illinois) to monitor short-term and long-term population changes, and the annual Cook County Nesting Bird Census in mid-June coordinated by Alan Anderson.

In addition to participating in these intensive projects, birders reported several unusual records such as: the Neotropic Cormorant(s), Illinois' first (confirmed) Arctic Tern (see separate article in this issue), a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nest, several Alder Flycatchers, Illinois' first Fish Crow nest (see separate article in this issue), nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches, and nests for no fewer than 10 species of warblers. Further, many of the traditional southern Illinois species were present in good numbers in northwestern Illinois. The most significant details of most species appear in the following species accounts.

For the month of June, temperatures averaged about 3.0 degrees below normal (with Rockford recording 39 degrees on 21 June) and precipitation was about 2.55 inches below normal; for July, temperatures also averaged 3.0 degrees below normal (with the exception of the extreme south which was slightly above normal) and precipitation averaged 3.6 inches above normal (which included more than 9 inches above normal in central counties); there were no days above 100 degrees this summer (the maximum temperature was 97 degrees near St. Louis on 2 July).

As usual, this compilation is the result of the combined efforts of many observers and reporters and would not have been possible if they hadn't taken the time and effort to record and submit their personal observations for pub-

lication. I am extremely grateful to all of you who continue to gather this information, to those of you who reviewed and provided comments on the first draft of this report, and, especially to those listed below who submitted direct or indirect information for publication in this report. The persons responsible for the records in the accompanying species accounts are acknowledged individually after their records; considerable effort has been made to be sure that all information is correct. Observers and contributors for this report include: Alan Anderson, Carl Becker, (DB) David Bohlen, Dale Birkenholz (DBi), Elaine Burstatte, Karl Bartel, Laurence Binford (LB), Michael Baum (MB), Maurice Brucker (MBr), Nancy Bent, Richard Biss (RB), Robb Brumfield (RBf), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), Ron Bradley (RBr), Steve Byers (SBy), Anne Carroll, David Cederstrom (DC), Elizabeth Chato, Joseph Cath, Marilyn Campbell (MCA), Mike Carpenter (MCR), Robert Chapel, Aura Duke, Donald Dann (DDn), Didge Donovan (DDO), Danny Diaz (DD), Larry David, Peter Dring, Ralph Eiseman, Darlene Fiske, Todd Fink, Bill Glass (BGL), Karin Graeff, Scott Garrow, Ann Haverstock (AH), Barrie Hunt, Fran Harty, Jim Herkert (JHe), Kanae Hirabayashi, Robert Hughes, Ralph Herbst (RHe), Richard Hugel (RHu), Scott Hickman, Sam Hossin (SHo), David Johnson, Doris Johanson (DJh), Leslie Jette (LJe), Linda Kinkle, Peter Kasper, Rose Kirwan (RKi), Vernon Kleen, Alice Lindsley, Bob Lindsay (BLi), Eric Latturmer, James Landing, Stephen Lee, Deck Major (DMj), David Mandell, Ed Mockford, Joe Milosevich, Judy Mellin (JMe), Keith McMullen, Lynn McKeown, Margaret Mechtenberg (MMe), Margot Merrick (MMr), Margo Milde (MMi), Michael Morin (MMo), Patti Malmberg, Robert Montgomery, Tara McCartney (TM), Walter Marcisz, John O'Brien (JO), Christine Phillip, Mark Phipps (MPH), Peter Petersen, Sebastian Patti, Al Rothenbach, Doug Robinson, Gerald Rosenband, Harriet Rylaarsdam, Scott

Robinson, Alan Stokie (AS), Darrell Shambaugh, Eric Smith, James Smith, Jeffrey Sanders (JSa), John Schwegman (JSc), Jim Steffen (JSt), Paul Strand (PSt), Robert Szafoni, Scott Simpson, Valdemar Schwarz, Wes Serafin, Barb Thayer, Craig Thayer, Janet Tebussek, Glendy Vanderah, Charles Westcott, Dan Williams, Dennis Wright (DWr), Eric Walters, Helen Wuestenfeld, Marvin Wallace, Zelma Williams.

This 1992 breeding season's casual and vagrant species are capitalized and boldfaced. Other significant information relating to location, maximum count, and nests are bold-faced. Counties are boldfaced and underlined if the record is reported or known to be a county first.

As expected, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations; the more documentations from observers, the higher rating it will receive by Illinois' Ornithological Records Committee (I.O.R.C.). Observers should, as much as possible, prepare the documentations in the field at the time they are observing the bird(s). Although photographs are better than written documentations, observers should not rely totally on their photograph as the documentary evidence unless the photograph is available for immediate review (while the bird is still under observation), and there is no doubt the photograph distinctly identifies the bird that is being documented.

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

ad.	= adult
C.A.	= Conservation Area
subad.	= subadult
F.P.	= Forest Preserve
imm.	= immature
F.W.A.	= Fish & Wildlife Area
yg.	= young
L	= Lake
pr.	= pair
N.C.	= Nature Center
*	= documented record
N.P.	= Nature Preserve
**	= specimen record
N.W.R.	= Nat'l Wildl Refuge
resp.	= respectively
S.F.	= State Forest
m.ob.	= many observers
S.P.	= State Park
est.	= estimate(d)
B.B.S.	= Breeding Bird Survey
rt.	= rt.
CCNBC	= Cook County Nesting Bird Census
Co.(s)	= County(ies)
M.C.	= Maximum Count(s)
Carl.L	= Carlyle Lake (Clinton Co.)
CBG	= Chicago Botanic Gardens (Glencoe, Cook Co.)
Chi	= Chicago—excluding JP & LCal (Cook Co.)
Clin.L	= Clinton Lake (De Witt Co.)
COLSP	= Chain O' Lakes S.P. (Lake Co.)

DPCA	= Des Plaines C.A. (Will Co.)
Fermi	= Fermilab at Batavia (Du Page Co.)
FGP	= Forest Glen Preserve (Vermilion Co.)
GLPSP	= Goose Lake Prairie S.P. (Grundy Co.)
GLNTC	= Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co.)
HL	= Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co.)
HLCA	= Horseshoe Lake C.A. (Alexander Co.)
IBSP	= Illinois Beach S.P. (Lake Co.)
JP	= Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co.)
KCP	= Kennekuk Cove Park (Vermilion Co.)
LCal	= Lake Calumet (Cook Co.)
LChau	= Lake Chautauqua N.W.R. (Mason Co.)
LCNP	= La Salle County Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co.)
LRen	= Lake Renwick (Will Co.)
LRSHNC	= Little Red School House N.C. (Cook Co.)
LShel	= Lake Shelbyville (Shelby Co.)
M.Arb	= Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co.)
MFWA	= Middlefork F.W.A. (Vermilion Co.)
MM	= McKee Marsh (Du Page Co.)
MS	= McGinnis Slough (Orland Park, Cook Co.)
MTNWR	= Mark Twain N.W.R. (Calhoun & Jersey Co.s)
Rend L	= Rend Lake (Franklin Co.)
Sang.L	= Sangchris Lake State Park (Sangamon Co.)
Spfld	= Springfield (Sangamon Co.)
UCCA	= Union County C.A. (Union Co.)

A number in parentheses () indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds.

Common Loon—Rock Cut S.P. (subad.), 12 June-31 July+ (DW); Spoon L (Knox Co.) (subad.), 9 July & 1 Aug. (MB).



Pied-billed grebe on nest at Palatine Marsh, Cook County, 6 July 1992. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Pied-billed Grebe—Nests: Barrington (20 feet from edge of highway) (female incubating), 6 July (JM). Broods: N. Cedar Lake Rd. Marsh (Lake Co.) (1 = 3-4 yg.), 24 June (RKi); MS (3), June-July (WS); LCal (4—max. = 3 yg./brood), 7 June-18 July (WM); Riverdale (1 = 6 yg.), 31 July (WM); LRen (1 = 2 yg.), 3 Aug. (JM); Cypress Creek N.W.R. (Pulaski Co.) (1 = 7 yg.), 17 May (TF). Others: Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (11—including 7 imm.), 3 Aug. (EW); Chicago Heights (2), 13 June (JT); Chi

(Powderhorn Marsh), 11 June (AA); Tinley Park, 8 June (AA); e. Grundy Co. (near GLPSP) (ad.), 29 June (JM); w. Will Co. (single ads. at 4 locations), 2 June-8 July (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 5 June (RC); Spfld, June-July (DB); Sherman (Sangamon Co.), 8 July (DB).

Eared Grebe—CBG, 25 May-2 June (AS, JSt).

American White Pelican—Ware, 24-30 June (TF, m.ob.) L.D.: 24 June, UCCA (F, m.ob.).

Double-crested Cormorant—Colonies: Thomson (Carroll Co.) (est. 300—on Illinois/Iowastate line in Mississippi R.), 26 May (VK); Baker's L (n.w. Cook Co.), 35 nests, July (SBY); LRen, 201 nests (118 at original location, 83 at expanded location), 30 Apr. (JM); Utica (La Salle Co. along I & M Canal), 3 nests (+ 79 birds), 26 June (DS); Duck Island (Fulton Co.) (25+), 26 May (VK); Keyesport (Clinton/Bond/Fayette co.s), 89 nests (and 300 birds counted), 14 Aug. (KM). M.C.: 362 (ad. & yg.—not including birds at expanded colony location), LRen, 22 June (JM); 115, Baker's L (Cook Co.), 30 June (DJ). Others: HL (6), 25 June (KM); Sang.L, 12 June (DB); Clear L (Mason Co.) (100—but none nesting), June-July (RBj); LCal (5), 7 June (WM); MS (67), 24 July (WS); Spoon L (Knox Co.), 8 June (MB).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT—Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.), 28 June-17 July (JO, CP, *CW, *m.ob., videotaped DJ); LRen, 6 July (*M). Second Will Co. record (both at LRen). These are believed to be separate individuals - See Seasonal Highlights in this issue.



Neotropic Cormorant with Double-crested Cormorants and Great Egrets at Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, Plainfield, Cook County, 1992. Note small size, long tail, round head, and white neck plumes. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

American Bittern—LCal (none—JL); GLPSP, 12 July (EL fide RB).

Least Bittern—Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (pr.), 6 June (WM); Sang.L, 10 June (DB); Urbana, 25 July (RC). Others: LCal (none reported).



Heron/cormorant colony at Baker's Lake, Cook County, 6 July 1992. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Great Blue Heron—N.E. Illinois colonies: Baker's L (n.w. Cook Co.) 94 nests, July (SBY); LRen, 373 nests (103 at original location, 270 at expanded location), 10 Apr. (JM); Riverdale quarry, 3 nests, 26 Apr.-22 May (WM); Lemont, 35 nests (est) (MCR); Somonauk (De Kalb Co.), 13 nests, in April (DS). Illinois River colonies: 6 (from LDepue to Meredosia; range: 100-950 nests), 26 May (VK); [Clear L (Mason Co.), 950 prs. (RBj); Worley L (Tazewell Co.), 216 prs. (RBj)]. Mississippi River colonies: 17 (Jo Daviess Co. to Monroe Co. + 2 others in Iowa and 1 in Missouri; range: 50-500 nests), 26-27 May (VK). Southern Illinois colonies: 7 (Carl.L to Pope and Alexander co.s; range: 15-650 nests), 27 May (VK). Others: No nesting at LCal, but birds consistently present since 27 June (JL); now a common summer resident—but breeding uncertain—in Sangamon Co., max. count (10), 26 June (DB).

Great Egret—N.E. Illinois colonies: Baker's L (n.w. Cook Co.), 45 nests, July (SBY); LRen, 228 nests (78 at original location and 150 at expanded location), 30 Apr.—note, one pr. fledged 3 yg. from newly installed nesting platform (JM); LCal—Indian Ridge Marsh, 14 nests, 1 May (WM), however only 4 nests actually fledged yg. with 1st fledglings noted 26 June (JL). Illinois River colonies: 4 (from LDepue to Clear L—perhaps at 1 or 2 other locations; range: a few to 100 nests), 27 May (VK); [Clear L (Mason Co.), 96 prs. (RBj); Worley L (Tazewell Co.), 34 prs. (RBj)]. Mississippi River colonies: 13+ (from Jo Daviess Co. to Monroe Co. + 2 in Iowa; range: 10-250 nests), 26-27 May (VK). Southern Illinois colonies: 3+ (Pon-

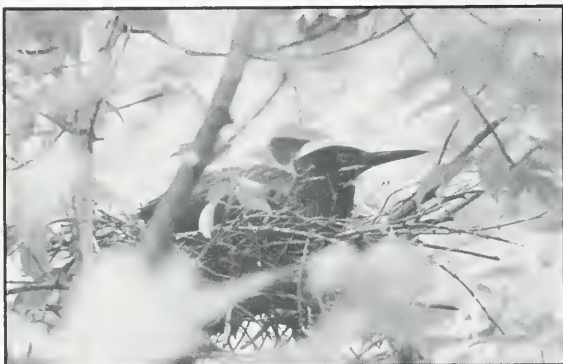
toon Beach to Pope and Alexander co.s; range: 35 to 100+ nests), 27-28 May (VK); [Pontoon Beach (35 nests) and Alorton (100+ nests), 28 May (VK et al.). M.C.: 148 (ad. & yg.—not including birds at expanded colony location), LRen, 22 June (JM); 92, Barrington, 1 July (DJ). Others: Braidwood (2), 2 June (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.), 10 June (JM); GLPSP (3), 29 June (JM); Carl. L (25), 26 July (KM); Ullin (Pulaski Co.) (2 ad.—part of anticipated colony nearby), 17 June (VK).

Snowy Egret—Nesting: Alorton, probable nests, 28 May (VK et al.). Others: LCal (2 ad.), late May thru 18 July (WM, m.ob.), then (1) thru 31 July (WM); LRen (ad.), 25 June-17 July and (2 ad.), 1 Aug. (JM); Ullin (Pulaski Co.) (6 ad.—part of anticipated colony nearby), 17 June (VK).

Little Blue Heron—Colonies: Alorton (St. Clair Co.) (100's), 28 May (VK et al.). Others: Mississippi R. (Calhoun Co.), 17 June (MPh); Ullin (Pulaski Co.) (6 ad.—part of anticipated colony nearby), 17 June (VK).

Cattle Egret—Colonies: LRen, 3+ nests, 23 May & 22 June (JM); Alorton, 100's of nests, 28 May (VK et al.). Others: n.w. Will Co. (6 ad. foraging with cattle), 17 June (JM).

Green-backed Heron—Nests: Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (2 eggs), 6 June (WM); LRen (4 yg.), 22 June (JM). Others: Spfld



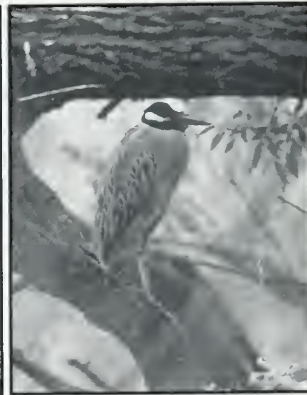
Green-backed Heron on nest at Lake Renwick, Plainfield, Will County, 23 May 1992. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



Green-backed Heron nest with three young at Lake Renwick, Plainfield, Will County, 22 June 1992. A fourth young was out of nest. All young fledged. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



Adult Black-crowned Night Heron at Crabtree Forest Preserve, Cook County, 6 July 1992. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



Yellow-crowned Night Heron near nest at Powderhorn Marsh, Cook County, May 1992. Photo by Joe Nowak.

(19), 22 July (DB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron—Colonies: Baker's L (n.w. Cook Co.), 11 nests (down from 65 in 1991, 175 in 1990, and 220 in 1989), July (SBY); Frontenac Marsh (Du Page Co.) (12+), late May (fide EW); LCal (Big Marsh), est. 600 nests, and LCal (Indian Ridge), 330 nests (WM); LRen, 73+ nests (73 at original location and an unknown number probable at expanded location), 14 June (some major adjustments apparently occurring at this colony; in addition, 3 prs. utilized nesting platforms) (JM); Worley L (Tazewell Co.), 37 prs., (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co.), 27 prs. (RBj); Pontoon Beach, 252 nests, 28 May (VK et al.); Alorton, 100's of nests, 28 May (VK et al.). Possible nesting: n. Sanitary District Canal (at Evanston, Cook Co.) and Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co.) (fide AA). Others: JP (16), 11 July (HR); Spfld (ad. & 2 imm.), 8 June (DB); Charleston (1 ad., 2 imm.), 10 July (BH).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron—Nests: Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 22 Apr. (at nest), May 9 (incubating), May 17 (abandoned) (WM). Others: N. Chicago (Lake Co.), 23 June (DJ); Des Plaines R. & Touhy Ave. (Cook Co.), 16 June (RH); Lockport (7—at least 6 ad.), 18 June (JM); LCal (ad.), 26 June (WM); KCP (ad.), 19 May (RS); Long Island (Adams Co.) (ad.), 18 & 22 June, and (1-5 ad.), 25-30 June (DB).

Mute Swan—COLSP (2), 15 July (SG); Baker's L (Cook Co.) (3 ad., 1 yg.), 28 June-6 July (AS, DDn); MS (2), 17 June (BGI, FH); JP (5), 14 June (HR); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (ad.), 6-27 June (WM).

Canada Goose—Broods: 41 (335 yg.), w. Will Co. (9 locations), May-July (JM); 11 (from 1-13 yg./brood), LCal, 28 Apr.-7 June (WM). M.C.: 275 (ad. & yg.), LRen, 23 June (JM). Others: Increasing numbers of broods in Boone County the last 3-4 years (EB); now all over Sangamon Co. (DB).

Wood Duck—Broods: 20 (1-12 yg./brood; ave. size, 5.6 yg.), Sangamon Co., 17 May-22 July (DB); 10, w. Will Co., May-June (JM); 3 (4-6 yg./brood), Winnebago Co., 19 June-5 July

(DW); several, Long Island (Adams Co.), early June (DB). M.C.: 62, MS, 11 June (WS); 45, Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.), 3 Aug. (EW); 40, Spfld, 30 June (DB); 35, DPCA, 15 June (JM).

Green-winged Teal—Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (3 ad.), late June (CW); LCal (2 males), 21-26 June, (1 male), 27 June, (2 ads. in eclipse plumage), 31 July (WM).

Mallard—Broods: 20 (from 1-10 yg./brood), LCal, 17 Apr.-19 July (WM); 12 (from 1-14 yg./brood; ave. size, 7.2 yg.), 4 May-22 July (DB); "many", w. Will Co., May-July (JM); 2, Long Island (Adams Co.), early June (DB).

Blue-winged Teal—Broods: (5—1st on 19 June), LCal (JL), (another, 8 yg. on 19 July (WM). Others: Barrington (10 imm.), 1 July (DJ); MS (6), 17 June (BGL, FH), and (15), 31 July (WS); Joliet (male), 6 & 26 June (JM); Lockport (male), 5 June (JM); Sang.L (2 males), thru 10 June (DB); Carl.L (4), 28 June (KM).

Northern Shoveler—LCal (male), 5 June-3 July (JL, WM).

Gadwall—Spfld (male), 18 & 22 June (DB); LCal (male), 21 June, but (2 males), 26-27 June, then (1 male), 3 July (WM); LCal (female), 18 July (WM); LRen (male), 22 June (JM).

Ring-necked Duck—Barrington (2 males, 1 female), 6 June (RE) and (pr.), 27 June-3 Aug. (JL, EW); LCal (male), 26 June-18 July (WM); Frontenac Marsh (Du Page Co.) (pr.), 17 June, (female still present), in July (JM).

Lesser Scaup—CBG (pr.), May thru early July (JSt); Spfld (male), 21 June (DB); UCCA (male), 3 June (DR, TM).

Hooded Merganser—Broods: Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (6 yg.), 25 May (CW) & (9 yg.), 30 May (JSa); Barrington (female w/10 yg.), 30 June (EW); LRSHNC (PD); DPCA (2 yg.), 15 June (JM); Hamilton (Hancock Co.) (5 yg.), 15 May (ZW); Long Island (Adams Co.) (4 yg.), 10 June (DB); Spfld (3—6, 10, & 12 yg.), 5-23 May (DB); s. Clinton Co. (10 yg.), 8 May (KM). Others: N. Chicago (imm.), 24 June (DJ); JP (4), 5 July (HR); Spfld (female), 18 June and (imm.) 19 June (DB).

Common Merganser—Joliet (3 males, 2 females), 27 June, then (2 males, 2 females), 9 July, and (3, in female plumage), 7 Aug. (JM).

Red-breasted Merganser—Stickney (Cook Co.) (female), 24-29 May and Chi (Columbus Park), 11-12 June (RHe); LCal (Big Marsh) (2 females), 8 June (WM); Joliet (male), 20 & 25 May & 9 July (JM); Joliet (molting male), 7 Aug. (JM).

Ruddy Duck—Barrington (2), 13 June (fide RB); Riverdale (1-4 ads.—no broods), 1 June-16 July (WM); MS (2), 17 June (BGL, FH), but, (male), all summer (WS).

Black Vulture—Nests: Burden Falls (Pope Co.) (2 yg.), April-August (TF). Others: more evident in w. Union Co. than in past two years (SR).

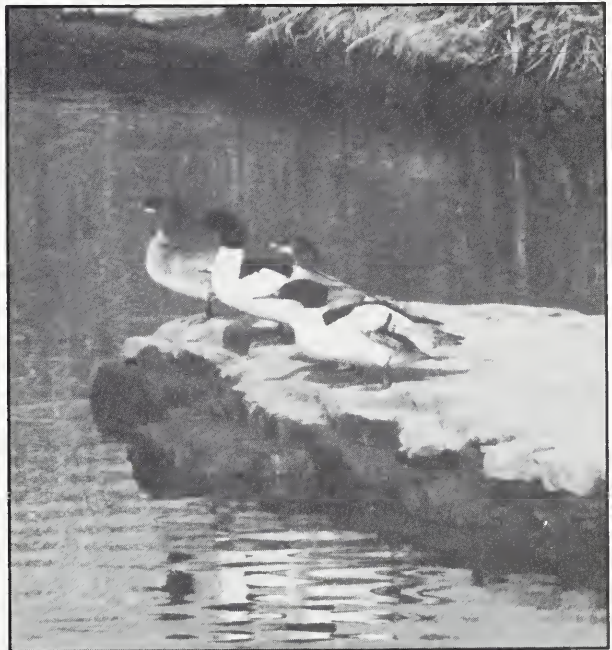
Turkey Vulture—Nests: Hamilton (Hancock Co.) (1 yg.), early May (fide ZW); n. Edgar Co. (2: eggs thru fledgling), 26 June-

19 Sep.) (MCA, m.ob.). Others: Woodstock (pr.), 6-18 June and 3 Aug. (DF); Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (5-7), mid-to-late July (CW); McGraw Wildlife Area (Kane Co.) (probable nesting) (RM); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (10), 26 June (AH); Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.) (up to 9—some perhaps nesting), June-July (NB, AA, m.ob.); Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.) (6), 10 June (JM); Lockport (2) and LRen, 12 June and 25 June, resp. (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (5), 20 July (EC); n.w. and e. Sangamon Co. (up to 5) June-July (DB).

Osprey—Coles Co. (ad.), 9 & 28 June (2 different county lakes) (BH); KCP, 26 July (KG fide MCA) & 3 Aug. (MCA); Middle Fork River (Champaign Co.) (ad.), 11 July (JS); Grafton (Calhoun Co.), 23 July (MPh).

Mississippi Kite—Long Island (Adams Co.) (ad.), 10 & 28 June (DB); Mississippi R. (Calhoun Co.), 19 May & 17 June, and (Adams Co.), 16 July (MPh); Grafton (imm.), 16 July (HW); Ft. Massac S.P. (pr.), 24 May & 17-18 June (VK).

Bald Eagle—Nests: Savanna Army Depot (3 yg.), 26 May (VK); Spring L (Carroll Co.) (2 yg.), 26 May (VK); Carl.L (2 fledglings) (CB); Newton L (Jasper Co.) (1 fledgling) (CB); UCCA (2 yg.), 23 May (VK); HLCA (1 yg.), 27 May (VK). Others: LCal (imm.), 4 July (JL); Palos (imm.), 11 July (JL); L Charleston (ad. w/o wing tag), 22 July (RBR, fide BH); Nutwood



Male and female Common Mergansers, Will County, 27 June 1992, present at traditional summering location. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

(Jersey Co.), 23 July (MPh).

Northern Harrier—Nests: Jasper Co. Prairie-Chicken Sanctuary (2 eggs), 9 June (SS). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (female), 5-23 June (*AH); Fermi, late May (PK, fide EW); Vollmer Road (s. Cook Co.), 20 June (fide RB); Joliet Army

Ammunition Plant (Will Co.), 4-6 May (BGI et al.); Knox Co. (ad. over reclaimed stripmine land), 9 July (MMo); Spfld, 24 June (DB); n. of Rantoul, 21 July (EC); s.w. Champaign Co. (female or imm.), 3 June & 19 July (RS); Homer, in June (JS); n. Coles Co. (male), 24 July (RS); s. of Kinmundy (Marion Co.) (nest building), 23 Apr. (SS), and (female), 16 July (SS); Perry Co. (pr. in reclaimed strip mine), 1 June (MMo); Saline Co. (pr. in reclaimed strip mine), 30 June (MMo).

Cooper's Hawk—Nests: Rock Cut S.P. (pr. at nest), May-June (DW); Greenbelt F.P. (Lake Co.) (3 yg. fledged), 20 May-29 June (DJ); Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (2 yg.), ready to fledge, 28 July (CW); LRSHNC (PD); M.Arb (2), 7 & 26 Apr. (DDo, EW); Abingdon (Knox Co.), 9 May (LM); Evergreen L (McLean Co.), 13 May (EM, DB); Forbes S.P. (Marion Co.) (1 yg.), 6 June (TF); Trail of Tears S.F. (Union Co.) (3 yg.), 20 June (TF); Pomona (Jackson Co.), 30 Apr. (TF); South Ripple Hollow (Alexander Co.), April-July (CT). Others: Shirland (along Sugar River, Winnebago Co.), 25 June (DC); McGraw Wildlife Area (Kane Co.) (probable nesting) (RM); CCNBC (6 locations) (fide AA); Lockport, 22 May (JM); Joliet (imm.), 17 June (JM); University Park (Will Co.), 3 Aug. (AD); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 1 July (EC); KCP (ad.), 28 June (RC); s.w. Richland Co. (ad.), 24 June (VK).

Red-shouldered Hawk—Nests: Lockport (pr. at nest), 15 May (JM). Others: Bemis Woods South (Cook Co.), early June (SL); River Forest (Cook Co.), early June (fide AA); Joliet, 8 & 18 June (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (recently fledged yg.—1st Champaign Co. breeding record), 5 July (RC); s. Clinton Co. (2), 28 June (KM); n.e. Wayne Co. (ad.), 24 June (VK).

Broad-winged Hawk—Nests: Rockford (2 yg. fledged), 4-30 June (DW); Dixon Springs S.P. (Pope Co.) (3 yg. fledged), April-June (TF). Others: Rock Cut S.P. (imm.), 18 July (DW); M.Arb (pr.), May-July (EW); Palos area (2 prs.), June (WS); Joliet, 24 June (JM); w. Union Co. (4-5 territories), June-July (SR).

Swainson's Hawk—Nests: n.w. Kane Co. (2 nests), 9 & 11 May, resp. (MMe fide RM) and another pr. possible in same area (RM); Henpeck (Kane Co.) (1 yg. in nest), 14 July (PM, JH).

Red-tailed Hawk—Nests: Monee (yg. in nest on power line pole), 28 Apr., and in same nest, again, 14 June (AD); Palos area (5) (WS); Somonauk area (6) (DS); w. Will Co. (9), April-June (JM).

American Kestrel—Nests: Harmon (Lee Co.) (in box elder tree), 27 Apr.-13 June (MW); Rock Cut S.P. (3 yg. fledged), 18 July (DW). Others: s.w. De Kalb Co. (17), 18 July (DS); Spfld (14), 5 July (DB).

Peregrine Falcon—The only Illinois nesting site this year was on Chicago's Wacker Building (3 yg.). Several yg. were introduced in Muscatine, IA, in mid-July and another pair established a territory at the Quad Cities this year. Others: Spfld (ad.), 1 July (DB, JM).

Gray Partridge—Nests: Harmon (Lee Co.) (13 eggs), 30 May

(MW).

Ring-necked Pheasant—Champaign Co., good numbers, June-July (EC). Statewide population remains the same as in 1991 (LD).

Wild Turkey—Long Island (Adams Co.), widespread and common, throughout June (DB); FGP, 13 July (MCa).

Greater Prairie-Chicken—Jasper Co. (10 males), April-June (SS); Marion Co. (9 males), April-June (SS); Clay Co. (1 male), April-June (SS).

Northern Bobwhite—Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (5), 20 June-10 July (AH); Sangamon Co., "good numbers" (DB); Champaign Co., none encountered, June-July (EC). The 1992 Illinois bobwhite index, based on the 48 statewide census rts., declined nearly 15% from 1991 after showing a 9% decline the year before; the 1992 counts were 18.4% below the previous five year mean, but they were only 2.3% below the 1975-1991 mean (LD).

"**Rails**"—None reported from LCal all season (m.ob.).

King Rail—Schaumburg, 26-27 June (AL); Monee (ad.), 20 July (AD); Lockport (ad. calling), 22 Apr.-31 May (JM); GLPSP, 12 July (EL fide RB).

Virginia Rail—Young: N. Cedar Lake Rd. Marsh (Lake Co.) (ad. w/1 yg.), 9 June (RKi). Others: Joliet (6 calling), 31 May and (2 still calling), 12 June (JM). None reported in Cook Co..

Sora—Barrington (several), June (CW); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co.) (heard), 7 June (WM); Busse Woods F.P. (Cook Co.), mid-June (AR); Joliet (8 calling), 31 May and (2 still calling), 12 June (JM).

Common Moorhen—Nests: Barrington (female incubating), 6 July (JM). Broods: N. Cedar Lake Rd. Marsh (Lake Co.) (2—5 & 6 yg.), 27-30 June (RKi); Barrington (4 yg.), 6 July (JM), but (2—5 & 1 yg.), 3 Aug. (EW); near Libertyville (Lake Co.), 5 July (PM, JH); LCal (9—1-6 yg./brood), ranging 7 June-18 July (WM); MS (4 yg.), 19-22 June (WS). Others: Barrington (6 ad.), 6 July (JM); MS (8), 17 June (BGI, FH); Chi (Egger's Woods), 14 June (WM); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 7 June (WM); Joliet (ad.), 25 June (JM); Sang.L., thru 18 June (DB).

American Coot—Nests: Joliet (6 eggs), 9 June (JM). Broods: N. Cedar Lake Rd. Marsh (Lake Co.) (2—5 & 3 yg.), 30 June (RKi); Barrington (6 yg.), June (CW); Riverdale (2—3 yg. each), 16 July (WM). Others: MS (5), 17 June (BGI, FH); LCal (ad.), 30 June & 2 July, but no broods (WM)—perhaps 1st time ever without any nesting here (JL); Sang.L., all summer (DB).

Sandhill Crane—Young: near Hebron (McHenry Co.) (pr. w/ 1 yg.), 26 June (DF); Moraine Hills S.P. (15 birds including yg.), 1 Aug. (DF); Thomson, Carroll Co., in June (DW r fide PP). Others: N. Cedar Lake Rd. Marsh (Lake Co.) (pr.), June-July (RKi).

Killdeer—M.C.: 35, Spfld, 13 June (DB).

Spotted Sandpiper—Young: Spfld, 26 June (DB); LCal (last chick observed), 4 July (JL). Others: Palos (16), 10 July (WS); Braidwood (7), 2 June (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (pr.), 6 June (EC).

Upland Sandpiper—Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (3—including 1 yg.), up to 26 June (AH); Glacial Park (n.e. McHenry Co.) (pr.), 2-4 June (DF); Country Club Hills F.P. (Cook Co.) (2), 20 June (JO); Joliet Army Ammunition Plant (Will Co.) (90), 4-6 May (BGI et al.); Coles Co. Airport, June-July (BH); Jasper Co. Prairie-Chicken Sanctuary (7 prs. including 2 broods), May-June (SS); Marion County Prairie-Chicken Sanctuary (pr.), May-June (SS); s.w. Richland Co. (ad.), 24 June (VK).

COMMON SNIBE—NEST: Wadsworth Prairie (Lake Co.) (4 eggs), 15 May (JSt, fide DJ, photo) See Seasonal Highlights in this issue. Others: Blue Island (Cook Co.), 6 June (VS); Joliet, 26 June (JM); GLPSP, 29 June (JM).



Common Snipe nest at Wadsworth Prairie, Lake County, 15 May 1992. Photo by Jim Steffen.

American Woodcock—Spfld, 10 June and n.w. Sangamon Co., 18 June (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.), 1 & 25 June (DB).

Laughing Gull—Waukegan, 25 June (DD fide RB).

Franklin's Gull—Evanston (1st summer), 26 June (EW).

Bonaparte's Gull—Evanston (1st winter), 17 June (EW).

Ring-billed Gull—Colonies: LCal: est. 10,000 ad. birds, early May (JL); half-grown chicks noted 7 June (WM). Young: Evanston (46 imm.), 26 June (EW). Others: Evanston (est. 1050), 3 July (EW); JP (525), 1 July (HR); Joliet (150), 7 June (JM); Spfld (50 imm.), June-July (B0; L Charleston, 22 July (RBr, fide BH); Keyesport (Clinton Co.) (10), 11 June (VK).

Herring Gull—Colonies: LCal: est. around 2000 ad. birds, early May with 1st chicks noted 5 June (JL); ratio of Ring-bills to Herrings is about 6:1; Baker's L (n.w. Cook Co.) (3 nests), 6 July (JM). Others: Joliet (6), 7 June (JM); Evanston (7 imm.), 26 June (EW).

Caspian Tern—Wilmette/Evanston (1-3 ad.), 17 June-7 July (EW); LCal (6), 18 July (JL); Spfld (+), June-July, but (9), 20 June (DB).

ARCTIC TERN—Spfld, (Sangamon Co.) 28 June-1 July (*DB, *m.ob., photos). First confirmed state record. See details and photos in this issue.

Forster's Tern—Spfld (subads.), 2, 20 & 22 June, also, (4), 24 June (DB).

Least Tern—Spfld (2 ad.), 17 June, and, (ad.), 20 June (DB); Ft Massac S.P. (2), 17 June (VK).

Black Tern—Nests: N. Cedar Lake Rd. Marsh (Lake Co.) (3—3 eggs each), 4 June (RKi). Others: Barrington (n.w. Cook Co.) (6-8), June/early July (CS m.ob.).

Black-billed Cuckoo—Nests: Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (3), May-June (SR). Others: Palos (male), 21 & 27 June (JL); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 20 June-20 July (EC); LShel, 11 June (RS); c. Green Co. (singing), 5 June (HW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—St. Morgan B.B.S. Rt. (Madison Co.) (11), 14 June (KM); LShel (10), 17 June (RS); Spfld (8), 3 June (DB); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (7), 6 June (EC); Long Island (Adams Co.), 50+ nesting pairs, during June (DBi).

Barn Owl—n. Pulaski Co. (3 yg.), 20 July (TF); s.e. Union Co. (ad.), 2-7 May (BLi, TF).

Great Horned Owl—Young: Lodge Park (Piatt Co.), 8 June (RC); LRen (in heron nest), 24 Mar. (JM).

Barred Owl—Young: CBG, in May (RB, LB); Lake of the Woods (2 different locations) (Champaign Co.), 7 & 14 June (RC). Others: Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (pr.), 7 May-13 June (EW, m.ob.).



Ring-billed Gull nest with three eggs at Lake Calumet, Cook County, 25 May 1992, one of thousands of nests present. Photo by Walter B. Marcisz.



Female Acadian Flycatcher on nest, Will County, 19 July 1992. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Whip-poor-will—LRSHNC, May thru July (PD); n.w. Sangamon Co. (6 calling—apparently the last stronghold in the county), 18 June (DB); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (2), June-July (AH).

Chimney Swift—M.C.: 200+, Joliet, 7 June (JM); 125, Spfld, 21 June (DB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—LRSHNC (2 pr.), May thru July (PD); Sand Ridge N.C. (Cook Co.), late June (PSt); Park Forest (frequent visitor), June-July (AD); Spfld (3), 27 June (DB).

Belted Kingfisher—Rock Cut S.P. (pr. w/ 2 fledged yg.), 18 July (DW); Wadsworth (Lake Co.) (2 ad., 2 yg.), 7 Aug. (EW); Joliet (nest in quarry), 7 June (JM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker—LShel (36), 17 June (RS).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER—NEST: Hanover Bluff N.P. (Jo Daviess Co.) (pr. feeding yg. in nest cavity), 2 July (RBf).

Pileated Woodpecker—Long Island (Adams Co.), very common, during June (DB); Spfld (Carpenter Park) (4—including 2 yg.), 23 June (DB); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (3), 6 June (EC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee—M.C.: 50+ prs., Long Island (Adams Co.), during June (DBi); 16, Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.), 13 June (EW); 16, Spfld, 3 June (DB); 11, Columbia B.B.S. rt. (Monroe Co.), 6 June (KM); 9, Joliet, 8 June; 8, Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.), 10 June (JM); 8, LShel, 17 June (RS).

Acadian Flycatcher—Nests: Mississippi Palisades S.P. (13 nests), May-June (SR); Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (2 nests), May-June (SR); Rock Cut S.P. (3 eggs), 18 July (DW); Joliet (3), 18 June & 19 July (JM) — See Seasonal Highlights in this issue; Hopedale, 4 July (JM). Others: Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (up to 2 males), 8-28 June (DC); e. of Freeport (along Pecatonica River) (singing), 11 June (DC); Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (singing), 21 June (DC); CCNBC (11 locations) (fide AA); Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.) (male), 10 June (JM); Joliet (4 males, 2 females), 8 June-19 July (JM); Iroquois Co. C.A., 20 June (RC); Singing Woods (Peoria Co.) (singing), 10 July (MBr); Lodge Park (Piatt Co.) (8—2 pr. & 4 males), 13 June (RC); Lake of the Woods (Champaign Co.), 3 June (RC); Shel (13), 17 June (RS); Walnut Point S.P. (Douglas Co.) (4), 29 May (RS); Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co.) (10), 2 June (RS); Spfld (7), 3 June (DB); 50+ prs., Long Island (Adams Co.), during June (DBi).

Alder Flycatcher—(Most or all of these reports may still be of spring migrants.) Kieselberg F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (calling male), 21 June (DW); Harlem Hills Prairie (Winnebago Co.) (calling male), 24 June (DW); Rush Creek Park (n.w. McHenry Co.) (pr.), 27 June (DF); Volo Bog (Lake Co.), 1 male calling, 18 June - 3 July (MMi), Barrington Hills (5 males), up to 18 June (MMi fide AA) — See Seasonal Highlights in this issue of *Meadowlark*. Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (3 singing), 7 June (AS); Cherry Hills F.P. (Cook Co.) (singing), 13 June (JM); CCNBC (singing—7 locations) (fide AA).

Willow Flycatcher—Nests: Joliet (3 eggs), 26 June (JM). Others: Winnebago Co. (5 calling males), 26 June (DW); Cuba Marsh (Lake Co.) (12 males), 10 June (DJ); Braidwood (4), 1 June (JM); LCal (3-4 nesting prs.), June-July (JL) with 11 (ad.) noted, 7 June (WM); Iroquois Co. C.A. (6 singing), 20 June



Willow Flycatcher nest with three eggs, Will County, 28 June 1992. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

(RC); Spfld (5), 13 June (DB).

Least Flycatcher—(Some of these may be late spring migrants.) CCNBC (singing—7 locations) (fide AA); Iroquois Co. C.A. (2 singing), 20 June (RC).

Great Crested Flycatcher—M.C.: 50+ prs., Long Island (Adams Co.), during June (DBi); 14, Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.), 10 June (JM); 13, Spfld, 3 June (DB); 11, LShel, 17 June (RS); 8, Joliet, 8 June (JM).

Eastern Kingbird—M.C.: 14, Spfld, 18 July (DB).

Horned Lark—CCNBC, only reported from 5 locations (fide AA).

Purple Martin—Rock Cut S.P. (2 prs. in dead tree snag rather than in nest box), 3 July (DW); "terrible die-off because of late May frost", Palos area (WS).

Tree Swallow—Nests: Orland Park (35—in boxes) (KB fide AA); LRSHNC (32—in boxes) (PD fide AA); Country Club Hills F.P. (28—in boxes) (KB fide AA). Others: Carl.L (45), 28 June (KM); Long Island (Adams Co.) (2 prs.), early June (DBi); Lake of the Woods (Champaign Co.) (2), 11 June (EC); Spfld (9), 20 June (DB).

Bank Swallow—Colonies: Joliet (75+ holes in quarry), 7 June (JM); s.w. Henderson Co. (350 holes in standing sandpile), 5 June (VK); Sangamon Co. (2 small colonies), June (DB). Others: CCNBC (6 locations) (fide AA); JP (7), 28 June (HR); Mahomet (12), in June (EC). M.C.: 200, Joliet, 27 June (JM).

Cliff Swallow—Nests: CBG (up to 6 pr.) (AS fide AA); JP (pr., first Chi summer record), June-July (HR); Wilton Center (Will Co.) (6), 9 May (JM); Sheridan (La Salle Co.) (18 at Fox River bridge), 13 June (DS); Pecatonica (Winnebago Co.) (11 nests under bridge culvert), 25 June (DW); LShel (25 active nests), 10 June (RS); Spfld (10 nests), 17 June (DB). Others: Carl.L (6), 28 June (KM).

FISH CROW—NEST: First confirmed Illinois nest: Ft. Massac S.P. (Massac Co.) 4 yg., none survived), 17 June (JSc, VK)—See published details in this issue. Others: Upper Stump L (Jersey Co.), 25 June (HW).

Tufted Titmouse—Nests: LRSHNC (2)(PD); Palos Park Woods (Cook Co.) (NB).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH—IBSP (2 ad., 1 fledgling), 5 July (GR, JSa, fide DJ).

Brown Creeper—Long Island (Adams Co.) (3 fledglings), 27 June, and (27 locations throughout the island), during June (DBi); Spfld (Lick Creek) (singing), 10 June (DB); Little Black Slough (Johnson Co.) (4), 24 June (TF).

Carolina Wren—Nests: Island Lake (McHenry Co.) (in woodpile—3 yg.), 16 May (fide DF); Chi (Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary) (KH); Sand Ridge N.C. (Cook Co.) (2 nests) (PSt); Joliet (in bluebird house), 8 June (JM). Young: Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.) (5 fledged), 4 May (JM). Others: Severson Dells F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (singing), 2 July (DC); Winnebago Co. (up to 7 known territories this summer) (DW); CCNBC (6 locations) (fide AA); Chi (Olive Park) (male), 26 July (JL); E. Chicago Heights (heard), 30 June & 11 July (JT); Thorn Creek N.P.

(nesting), 29 June (AD); Utica (I & M Canal) (5 singing), 26 June (DS); Knox Co. (highest numbers in ten years) (MB); Champaign Co. (abundant) (EC); Spfld (12), 3 June (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (50+ prs.), during June (DBi).

House Wren—M.C.: 50+ prs., Long Island (Adams Co.), during June (DBi); 29, New Lenox B.B.S. rt. (Will Co.), 11 July (JM); 25, Spfld, 14 June (DB).

Sedge Wren—s. of Stillman Valley (along Stillman Creek, Ogle Co.) (singing, two sites), 25 June (DC); Woodstock (+), May thru July (DF); Spring Lake N.P. (Cook Co.) (4—3 singing), 10 June (MMi); Poplar Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (2 males), 6 June (JMe); Country Club Hills F.P. (Cook Co.) (2 males), mid-June (AS); GLPSP (2 males), 6 June (JM); Lockport (3 males), 1 Aug. (JM); LRen, 3 Aug. (JM); Marshall Co. (singing), 25 July-7 Aug. (MBr); Iroquois Co. C.A. (8 singing), 20 June (RC); FGP, 20 July (MCa); Urbana, 14 June (RC); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (3), 16 July (EC); Sang.L (singing), 17-18 June & 17 July (DB); St. Morgan B.B.S. rt. (Madison Co.), 14 June (KM).

Marsh Wren—Nests: Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (1 egg), 6 June (WM). Others: MS (19), 17 June (BGI, FH), and (21), 25 July (WS); LCal (15 nesting prs.), June-July (JL) with 23 (singing), 7 June (WM); Joliet (9 males), in June (JM); DPCA, 15 June (JM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Nests: Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (3—1 successful), late May & early June (CW); Poplar Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (adult incubating), 17 May (JMe); M.Arb (3), 1-15 May (DDo). Young: Recently fledged yg. (Still being fed by adults) at Lockport and Joliet, 18 June (JM). Others: Stephenson Co. (6), 11 June (DC); Ogle Co., 25 June-2 July (DC); Winnebago Co. (7), 11 June (DC); Kinnickinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.), 21 June (DC); LRSHNC (4 nesting prs.) (PD); Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.) (5 nesting prs.) (AA, WS); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (6), 13 June (EW); w. Will Co. (7 territories), in June (JM); Palos (2 family groups), in June (WS); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (3), 20 June (EC); LShel (7), 17 June (RS); Spfld (5), 3 June (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (7 locations), during June (DBi); Columbia B.B.S. rt. (Monroe Co.) (8), 6 June (KM).

Eastern Bluebird—Rock Cut S.P. (7 nests in 32 boxes in 1st year of nest box project) May-June (DW); IBSP (18), 5 July (JSa); Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (2 nests) (CW); CBG (2 yg.) (JSt fide J); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (2 prs.) (JMe); LRSHNC (8 prs.) (PD); Orland Park F.P. (Cook Co.) (6 prs.) (KB); Country Club Hills F.P. (Cook Co.) (1 pr.) (KB); Tinley Park F.P. (Cook Co.) (1 pr.) (KB); Champaign Co., a good year (EC).

Veery—Mississippi Palisades S.P. (2 nests and 10 territories), Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (1 nest and 5 territories), and Ward's Grove N.P. (e.c. Jo Daviess Co.) (3 nests and 15), May-June (SR); Happy Hollow Creek (Stephenson Co.) (2 singing), 11 June (DC); Sugar River (Yale Bridge, Winnebago Co.) (2 singing), 28 June (DC); Rock Cut S.P. (2 singing), 20 June-18 July (DW); Lowden S.P. (Ogle Co.) (singing), 2 July (DC); Severson Dells (Winnebago Co.) (at least 2), 11 June (DC); Castle Rock S.P., 25 June-2 July (DC); Volo Bog N.P. (nesting) (DF); w. Barrington (singing), 13 June (SP);

Bartlett (n.w. Cook Co.) (several singing), 23 June & 2 July (LK); Des Plaines (singing), 14 June (SP); Cherry Hill Woods & Swallow Cliffs F.P. (Cook Co.) (9 males), mid-June (SHo fide AA); Plum Grove F.P. (Cook Co.) (5 males), mid-June (EW, AS fide AA); Palos (male), 21 June (JL); Joliet (6 ad.—including 2 prs.), in June (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.) (2 males), 10 June (JM); Humiston Woods (Livingston Co.) (singing), 2 June (VK); Singing Woods (Peoria Co.) (singing), 3 July (MBr); Clin.L (singing—spring migrant?), 3 June (RS); Walnut Point S.P. (Douglas Co.) (singing—spring migrant?), 29 May (RS); Trail of Tears S.F. (Union Co.) (male), 23 June (LJe).

Wood Thrush—Nests: Mississippi Palisades S.P. (24 nests), Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (47 nests), and Ward's Grove (e.c. Jo Daviess Co.) (56 nests), May-June—with moderate parasitism by cowbirds (SR); Rock Cut S.P. (2 eggs), 20 June (DW); Palos, June (JL); Champaign Co. (none) (EC); w. Union Co. (180 nests, only 85% parasitized by cowbirds this year) (SR). Others: Rock Cut S.P. (5 singing), 20 June (DW); Cherry Hills Woods & Swallow Cliffs F.P. (Cook Co.) (12 males), mid-June (SHo et al. fide AA); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (11), 13 June (EW); w. Will Co. (12 males in 3 locations), 8-11 June (JM); Thorn Creek N.P. (heard frequently), June-July (AD); Clin.L (5), 3 June (RS); LShel (10), 17 June (RS); Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co.) (3), 2 June (RS); Spfld (5), 10 June (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (23 locations), during June (DBi).

Gray Catbird—M.C.: 27, Braidwood, 1-2 June (JM); 18, Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.), 13 June (EW); 12, Spfld, 3 June (DB).

Northern Mockingbird—Nests: Braidwood (4 eggs), 24 June (JM). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (pr.), June-July (AH); Braidwood (8), in June (JM); e. Grundy Co. (2 males), 29 June (JM); Joliet, 11 July (JM); Sidney (Champaign Co.) (singing), June-July (JS); Parkville (Champaign Co.), 6 June (RC); Mansfield (Piatt Co.), 8 June (RC); Mahomet (Champaign Co.), 21 June (RC); Spfld (11), 14 June (DB); Columbia B.B.S. rt. (Monroe Co.) (23), 6 June (KM).

Cedar Waxwing—Nests: Joliet (1 egg), 28 June (JM). Others: JP (nested), 27 June (5 birds) (HR); Lake of the

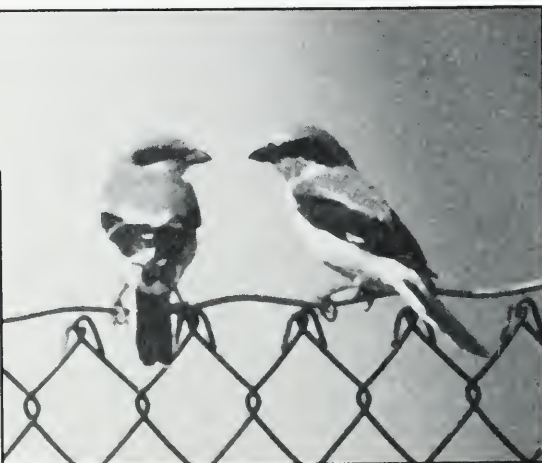
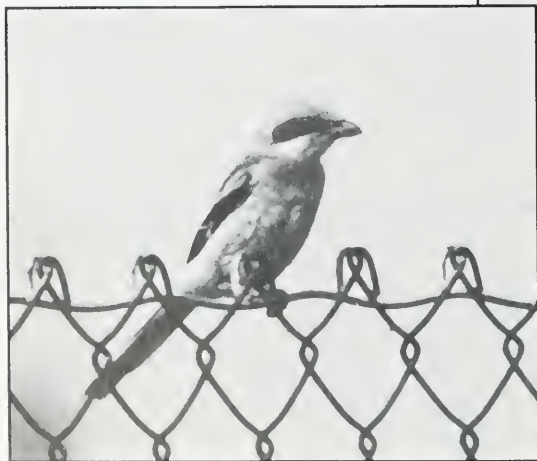
Woods (Champaign Co.) (nest-building), 20 June (EC); Williamsville (Sangamon Co.) (fledgling), 1 Aug. (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (small flock), 28 June (DBi).

Loggerhead Shrike—Nests: n. Kane Co. (pr. at newly constructed nest), 27 Apr. (JM); Victoria (Knox Co.) (5 yg.), 9 May (MB); Newmansville (Cass Co.) (2—both with yg.), 30 July (ES, JC, fide PM); w. Mason Co. (1 yg.), 30 May (ES, JC, fide PM); s.w. of Newton (incubating female), 8 May (SS). Young: University Park (Will Co.) (2 ad., 1 imm.), 3 Aug. (AD); e. Grundy Co. (ad. and 3 yg.), 29 June (JM); s.e. Richland Co. (family), 15 June (VK); n. of Flora (Clay Co.) (family), 24 June (VK); e. of Louisville (Clay Co.) (family), 25 June (VK). Others: Joliet Army Ammunition Plant (Will Co.) (only 1, down from 6-7 of past years), 4-6 May (BGl et al.); Warsaw (Hancock Co.), 9 July (MPh); s.e. Hancock Co., 5 June (VK); Columbus (Adams Co.), 25 June (MPh); New Salem (Pike Co.), 27 May (MPh); Newmansville (Cass Co.) (3 prs.), 8-10 July (ES, JC, fide PM); Pittsfield (Pike Co.), 25 June & 6 July (MPh); e. Macoupin Co., 9 & 13 June (MPh); Nokomis (Montgomery Co.), 21 June & 26 July (MPh); Coffeen (Montgomery Co.), 26 July (MPh); s.e. Madison Co., 11 June (VK); Wayne Co. (3 locations), 15-24 June (VK); n. Clay Co. (3 locations), 15-25 June (VK); s.e. Effingham Co., 15 June (VK).

White-eyed Vireo—Nests: Winnebago Co. (fledged yg.), 29 July (DW). Others: Rock Cut S.P. (2), 20 June-18 July (DW); Searles Prairie (Winnebago Co.), 17 July (DW); Kieselburg F.P. (Winnebago Co.), 21 June (DW); Bachelor Grove F.P. (Cook Co.) (3rd consecutive year), early June (WS); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (male), 13 June (EW); DPCA (male), 15 June (9); Watseka Sand Prairie (Iroquois Co.), 20 June (RC); Lake of the Woods (Champaign Co.) (4), 4 June (EC); LShel, 11 June (RS); Long Island (Adams Co.) (3), during June (DBi).

Bell's Vireo—Rock Cut S.P. (2), 20 June (DW); Harlem Hills Prairie (Winnebago Co.) (2), 24 June (DW); Kieselberg F.P. (Winnebago Co.), 4 July (DW); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle

Juvenile Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern Grundy county, 29 June 1992.



Adult (right) and juvenile Loggerhead Shrikes, Eastern Grundy County, 29 June 1992. Both photos by Joe B. Milosevich.

co.s) (2 prs.), June-July (AH); Barrington, 2 July (DJ); CCNBC (6 locations) (fide AA); e. Grundy Co. (2 males), 6 June (JM); DPCA (male), 10 June (JM); Braidwood (6 males), 1-2 June (JM); LCal (male), 6 June (WM); Iroquois Co. C.A. (2 singing), 20 June (RC); Bonnie's Prairie (n. of Watseka, Iroquois Co.) (2 pr.), 9 July (PM, JH); Lake of the Woods (Champaign Co.), 17 June (EC); Spfld (3), 3 July (DB).

Yellow-throated Vireo—Young: DPCA (ad. feeding cowbird), 15 June (JM). Others: Greenbelt F.P. (Lake Co.) (male), 1 June (DJ); DPCA (5), 15 June (JM); Palos (singing), 21 & 27 June (JL); Iroquois Co. C.A. (male), 20 June (RC); Lake of the Woods (Champaign Co.) (5 males), in June (C, EC); Long Island (Adams Co.) (20 locations), during June (DBi).

Warbling Vireo—Nests: Georgetown, 7 June (MCa). Others: Braidwood (12), 2 June (JM); JP (10), 10 & 13 June (HR); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (8 singing), 6 June (WM); Spfld (8), 3 July (DB).

Red-eyed Vireo—Joliet (25), 8 June (JM); JP (nested) (HR); Spfld (14), 3 June (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (35 locations), during June (DBi).

Blue-winged Warbler—Ogle Co. (singing), 25 June (DC); Rock Cut S.P. (2), 20 June (DW); Kinnickinnick River C.A. (Boone Co.) (singing), 23 June (DC); Cherry Hill Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (ad. feeding yg.), 13 June (JM) and (7-11 males), mid-June (CT et al. fide AA); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (male), 13 June (EW); CCNBC (10 locations) (fide AA); Spoon L (Knox Co.) (singing), 7 June (MB); Iroquois Co. C.A. (male), 20 June (RC).

Brewster's Warbler—Cherry Hill Woods F.P. (Cook Co.), 2 July (CT fide RB).

Northern Parula—Blackhawk Springs F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (4), June-July (DW); Singing Woods (Peoria Co.) (singing), 18 June (MBr); Lake of the Woods (Champaign Co.) (7 males), 30 May (RC); LShel (14), 17 June (RS); Long Island (Adams Co.) (14 locations), during June (DBi).

Yellow Warbler—Nests: Braidwood (4 eggs), 1 June (JM). Young: Palos (Cherry Hill Woods F.P.) (ad. feeding yg.), 13 June (JM). Others: Iroquois Co. C.A. (16 singing), 20 June (RC); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh and Wolf Lake) (16—including 14 singing), 6 June (WM); LCal (12—including 11 singing), 7 June (WM); DPCA (10), 15 June (JM); Braidwood (8), 1 June (JM); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (13), 13 June (EW); Scott Air Force Base (St. Clair Co.), 5 June (KM).

Chestnut-sided Warbler—Nests: Mississippi Palisades S.P. (successful), and Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (successful) (SR). Others: Rock Cut S.P. (2 territorial males), 20 June (DW); Chevalier Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (male), 14 June (RHu); Joliet (singing), 8 June (JM).

Yellow-throated Warbler—Mississippi Palisades S.P. (2 territories), May-June (SR); Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (3 singing), 26 June (DW); s.e. Winnebago Co. (male), 3 July (DW); Lake of the Woods (Champaign Co.) (pr.), 1 June-26 July

(EC); Lodge Park (Piatt Co.) (2 males), 13 June (RC); LShel, 11 June (RS); Long Island (Adams Co.) (19 locations), during June (DBi).

Prairie Warbler—Sang.L (male), 12 & 20 June (B—1st summer record for Sangamon Co.); FGP (male), 4 June (MCa).

Cerulean Warbler—Mississippi Palisades S.P. (30 territories) and Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (3 territories), May-June (SR); Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (4 singing), 26 June (DW); Kinnickinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.), 21 June (DC); Lowden S.P. (Ogle Co.), 2 July (DC); Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.), 2 July (DC); Saganashkee Slough (Palos), in June (WS); Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co.) (2), 2 June (RS); LShel, 25 June (RS); Spfld (Carpenter Park) (male), 3 June (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (5 locations), during June (DBi); Cedar/Cave Creek (Jackson Co.) (min., 110 territories), May-June (GV); w. Union Co. (24 territories—67% increase since 1991) (SR); Cache River (Little Black Slough/Heron Pond N.P., Johnson Co.) (10), 21 May (TF, JHe). Absent from Severson Dells F.P. (Winnebago Co.) this year (DC).

Black-&-white-Warbler—Nests: w. Union Co., in May (SR). Young: Jonesboro (Union Co.) (female w/ 2 yg., and, male w/ fledgling), late May (TM). Others: n.e. Lake Co. (singing), 20 June (SH); Joliet (singing), 8 June (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 6 June (EC); Long Island (Adams Co.) (2), during June (DBi).

American Redstart—e. of Freeport (along Pecatonica River) (3), 11 June (DC); near Rock River (Ogle Co.), 25 June-2 July (DC); Palos (several nesting prs.) (JL); Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.) (6 males), mid-June (AA, WS); DPCA (9—4 ad. male, 4 subad. male, and 1 female), 15 June (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 1 June (EC); Lodge Park (Piatt Co.), 13 June (RC); Spfld (only 2 males all summer) (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (16 locations), during June (DBi); s. Clinton Co. (9), 28 June (KM).

Prothonotary Warbler—Pecatonica (nested), 12 June & 3 July (DW); Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (nested), in June (CW fide AA); Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co.) (1-2), thru 11 June (MMr); Des Plaines (All Saints Cemetery) (singing), 7 June (DJh); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (2), 6 June (EC); Long Island (Adams Co.) (50+ prs.), during June (DBi).

Worm-eating Warbler—Mississippi Palisades S.P. (3 territories) and Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (1 territory), May-June (SR); w. Union Co. (abundant, + 21 nests located) May-June (SR).

Ovenbird—Mississippi Palisades S.P. (common, + 1 nest located), Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (common, + 2 nests located) and Ward's Grove N.P. (e.c. Jo Daviess Co.) (very common, but no nests located), May-June (SR); near Rock River (Ogle Co.) (up to 7 singing), 25 June-2 July (DC); Severson Dells F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (singing), 11 June (DC); Rock Cut S.P. (3 singing, and, confirmed nesting), 20 June & 3 July (DW); Kinnickinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (2 singing), 21 June (DC); Barrington (5), mid-June (MMi fide AA); Chi (Egger's Woods) (singing), 14 June (WM); Joliet (3

males), 8-24 June (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.) (13 males), 10 June (JM); Allerton Park (Piatt Co.), 6 June (RC); Lodge Park (Piatt Co.), 13 June (RC); Clin.L (6), 3 June (RS); Walnut Point S.P. (Douglas Co.) (2), 29 May (RS); n.w. Sangamon Co. (males), 6 & 27 June (DB); w. Union Co. (up 30% since 1991—including presence at new sites) (SR).

Louisiana Waterthrush—Nests: s. of Charleston (4 eggs), 14 June (BH). Others: Severson Dells F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (singing), 11 June (DC); Singing Woods (Peoria Co.) (singing), 15 June-3 July (MBr); Kickapoo S.P. (family), 28 June (RC); LShel, 17 June (RS); n.w. Sangamon Co. (pr., female with food for yg.—probably the last nesting pr. in the county), 27 June (DB).

Kentucky Warbler—Nests: Joliet (5 yg.—no cowbirds), 18 June (JM). Others: Mississippi Palisades S.P. (10 territories), Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (5 territories), and Ward's Grove N.P. (e.c. Jo Daviess Co.) (3 territories) May-June—all three locations with early nesting depredation (SR); Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (singing), 2 July (DC); Joliet (5 ad., 1 yg.), 18 June (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.) (5 males), 10 June (JM); Clin.L, 3 June (RS); LShel (12), 17 June (RS); Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co.) (2), 2 June (RS); Sangamon Co. (3—becoming scarce), 3 June (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (6 locations), during June (DBi); w. Union Co. (population decrease since 1991, but highly successful nesting season) (SR). Special concern: “absent”, for 1st time in many (perhaps 15)



Kentucky Warbler nest with five young, Will County, 18 June 1992. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

years, from expected s.w. Cook Co. locations (fide EW).

Mourning Warbler—w. of Severson Dells F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (singing), 11-25 June (DC).

Common Yellowthroat—Nests: N. Cedar Lake Rd. Marsh (Lake Co.) (yg.), 16 July (RKi). M.C.: 120+ (males), Iroquois Co. C.A., 20 June (RC).

Hooded Warbler—Nests: w. Union Co. (16 located), May-June (SR). Others: Mississippi Palisades S.P. (10 territories), May-June (SR); Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (2 singing), 25 June (DC); e.c. McHenry Co. (pr.), 10 June & 3-9 July (AC fide

DF); Zion (male feeding cowbird yg.), in July (JSt, fide DJ), Des Plaines (Cook Co.) (singing), 14 June (SP); Swallow Cliffs F.P. (Cook Co.) (singing), 8 June (BT, CT fide AA); Walnut Point S.P. (Douglas Co.), 29 May (RS); Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co.), 2 June (RS).

Yellow-breasted Chat—Rock Cut S.P. (2 singing), 20 June (DW); Kiesleberg F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (singing), 21 June & 4 July (DW); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (pr.), June-July (AH); Cuba Marsh (Lake Co.) (5), 10 June (DJ); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (7), 13 June (EW); CCNBC (9 locations) (fide AA); e. Grundy Co. (3), 6 June (JM); Braidwood (3), 1 June (JM); Iroquois Co. C.A. (3 singing), 20 June (RC); Lake of the Woods (Champaign Co.) (singing), 6 June (EC); Spfld (4), 18 June (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (2), during June (DBi).

Summer Tanager—Hanover Bluff N.P. (s.w. Jo Daviess Co.) (female), May-June (SR); LShel (3), 25 June (RS); Spfld (male), 18 & 27 June & 18 July (DB); “absent” from usual w. Will Co. locations (JM).

Scarlet Tanager—Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (5), 13 June (EW); Chevalier & Robinson Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (5 males) and Spring Lake N.P. (Cook Co.) (5 males), mid-June (fide AA); Cherry Hills Woods N.P. (Cook Co.) (4 males), mid-June (BT, CT fide AA); Joliet (4 males), 8 June-19 July (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (Will Co.) (6 males), 10 June (JM); LShel (9), 17 June (RS); becoming increasingly scarce in Sangamon Co. (DB); Long Island (Adams Co.) (15 locations), during June (DBi).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (10 pr.), 5 July (RC); Long Island (Adams Co.) (12 locations), during June (DB).

Blue Grosbeak—w. Will Co. (2 males), 2-24 June (JM); White Heath (Piatt Co.), 13 June (RC); Pittsfield (Pike Co.) (3—pr. + male), 15 June (DMj); Columbia B.B.S. rt. (Monroe Co.), (2), 6 June (KM).

Lark Sparrow—Nests: Braidwood (6 eggs—3 Lark Sparrow & 3 cowbird), 19 June (JM). Others: n.w. of Durand (Winnebago Co.) (2), 14 June (DW); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (3 prs.), June-July (AH); Braidwood (7—6 ad., 1 imm.), 19 June (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 25 July (RC); Sangamon Co. (7 prs.), June-July (DB); near Lynnville (Morgan Co.) (pr.),



Lark Sparrow nest with three cowbird and three host eggs, Will County, 19 June 1992. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



Female Lark Sparrow on nest, Will County, 24 June 1992, still incubating three Lark Sparrow eggs despite the removal of three cowbird eggs from nest on 19 June. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

16 June (PM, JH).

Vesper Sparrow—Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.) (male), June/June (CW fide AA); Tinley Park, mid-June (KB fide AA); Monticello B.B.S. rt. (Piatt & McLean co.s) (47), 8 June (RC); Fairland B.B.S. rt. (Champaign & Piatt co.s) (43), 6 June (RC); w. Will Co. (10), 11 July (JM).

Savannah Sparrow—Tinley Park F.P. (Cook Co.) (65—38 males), 8 June (AA); Champaign Co., “present in all previously known locations” (RC).

Grasshopper Sparrow—Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (20+ prs.), June-July (AH); Colored Sands F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (5), 9 July (DW); Rock Cut S.P., 4 July (DW); Harlem Hills Prairie (Winnebago Co.) (2), 16 July (DW); Cuba Marsh (Lake Co.) (2), 10 June (DJ); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (13), 13 June (EW); Tinley Park F.P. (Cook Co.) (6), mid-June (AA et al.); Orland (12), June-July (WS et al.); GLPSP (10), 6 June (JM); Braidwood (9), 2 & 4 June (JM); Carl.L (6), 26 July (KM); Champaign, Douglas and Iroquois co.s, “present in all available habitat” (RC).

Henslow’s Sparrow—Young: GLPSP (male & 2 yg.), 29 June (JM). Others: Orland Park F.P. (Cook Co.) (2), 28 June (WS et al.); Paul Douglas F.P. (Cook Co.) and Country Club Hills F.P. (Cook Co.), mid-June (fide AA); GLPSP (5 males), 6 June (JM); Iroquois Co. C.A. (12 singing), plus, (2 more), one mile south, 20 June (RC); s. of Farina (Marion Co.) (singing), 16 July (SS).

Swamp Sparrow—Iroquois Co. C.A. (23 singing + some females), 20 June (RC); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (fledgling), 27 June and (6 singing), 6 June (WM); LCal (3 singing), 7 June (WM); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co.) (3 singing), 7 June (WM); Joliet/Lockport (5 males), in June (JM).

Song Sparrow—M.C.: 34, New Lenox B.B.S. rt. (Will Co.), 11 July (JM); 28, Spfld, 14 June (DB); 21, St. Morgan B.B.S. rt.

(Madison Co.), 14 June (KM).

Dickcissel—n.w. Illinois, “continuing to do well in uncultivated fields” (DC); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle co.s) (8+ prs.), June-July (AH); Plum Grove F.P. (Cook Co.) (4), 13 June (EW, AS); Schaumburg (2), 11 June (fide AA); e.c. Illinois, “present in all available habitat” (RC), but in Champaign Co., only “average numbers” (EC); Spfld (22), 13 June (DB).

Bobolink—Winnebago Co. (3), 19 June (but absent thereafter) (DW); Cuba Marsh (Lake Co.) (20+), 10 June (DJ); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (17), 13 June (EW); Orland (61), 11-15 June (WS et al.); Lockport (5—3 males, 2 females, nest-building), 19 June (JM).

Western Meadowlark—CBG (male), 5 June (MMr fide AA); Orland Park F.P. (Cook Co.) (male), 6 June (AS fide AA); New Lenox (Will Co.) (male), 11 July (JM); Bellflower (McLean Co.), 8 June (RC); Hoopston (Vermilion Co.), 18 July (RC); n.w. Winnebago Co. (6 singing), 19 June (DW).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—N. Cedar Lake Rd. Marsh (Lake Co.) (12 pr. + yg.), late May (RKi); Barrington (several fledged yg. w/ ads.), 6 July (M, m.ob.); near Libertyville (Lake Co.) (pr. w/ yg.), 5 July (PM, JH); Wadsworth (Lake Co.) (2 imm.), 7 Aug. (DJ); LCal: vegetative die-off in many marshes resulted in poor nesting season—from about 35 pairs in 1991 to about 9 pairs this year (JL); Chi (Egger’s Woods) (4 males, 1 female), 14 June (WM).

Brewer’s Blackbird—Tinley Park F.P. (Cook Co.) (2), mid-June (KB fide AA); LCal, 18 July (AS, DM fide RB).

Orchard Oriole—Young: Shabbona L.S.P. (female feeding 2 yg.), 5 July (DS); Palos (male + 4 yg.), 27 June (JL); Saganashkee Slough (Palos) (1st-year male carrying food for yg.), 13 July (WS); GLPSP (female feeding yg.), 29 June (JM); Spfld (fledged), 10 July (DB). Others: Half Day F.P. (Lake Co.) (male), 5 June (DJ); CBG (female feeding yg. cowbird), late June (MMr, JS); LRSHNC (4 prs.) (PD); Saganashkee Slough (pr. w/ yg. in nest), 21 June (AA); CCNBC (6 other locations); Braidwood (9), 2 & 4 June (JM); LRen (2), 22 June & 7 July (JM); Champaign Co., “good numbers” (EC); JP, 14 June (HR); Fairmount (Vermilion Co.) (pr.), June-July (JS); Spfld (5), 13, 18 & 24 June (DB).

Purple Finch—L.D.: 28 June (female plumage), Ozark (Johnson Co.) (F—w/ photos).

House Finch—LCal (400+), 25 July (JL); New Lenox B.B.S. (49 at 21 of 50 stops), 11 July (JM); Homer (53 max.), June-July (JS).

Exotics:

Monk Parakeet—JP (19—including 9 nests), 9 July (HR).

Again, many thanks to all contributors and reporters who made this compilation possible. Some records not included in this report are scheduled for review by I.O.R.C. and may be included in an addenda of a future report. In submitting Field Notes, contributors are requested to send their notes to the appropriate seasonal editor (addresses at

end of report) according to the following schedule:

- Natural Heritage Division, Department of Conservation,
524 S. 2nd St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787.

Date Reports due to Field Notes Editor

WINTER SEASON 1 Dec. - 29 Feb. 7 March
SPRING MIGRATION 1 March - 31 May 7 June
BREEDING SEASON 1 June - 31 July 7 August
FALL MIGRATION 1 Aug. - 30 Nov. 7 Dec.

Breeding -Vernon Kleen (see above address)

Fall -Robert Chapel, 306 1/2 W. California,
Urbana, IL 61801.

Winter -Robert Danley, 2201 Clay Street,
Murphysboro, IL 62966.

Spring -Eric Walters, 720 Reba Place,
Evanston, IL 60202.



Excerpts from the Field Notes of Charles T. Clark

Charles T. Clark began birding the Chicago area in 1925 and recorded notes from 1927 though 1977. These excerpts, recorded in seven 8 1/2 x 11 1/2 inch notebooks, plus one summary notebook, consist of daily lists (in the form of charts, with abbreviations for localities across the top and bird names on the left) and supporting information (date, weather, other observers, notes on birds seen, etc.). Several copies will be made, and the originals will be deposited in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

I have excerpted all notes for Illinois sightings of those species currently on the Review list of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC), plus a few additional observations of historical interest. For many of the records, Clark's notes represent the only documentation available. These excerpts have been reviewed by Clark. A copy will be given to IORC.

— Laurence C. Binford

Black-throated Sparrow

11 September 1948. One immature. IL., Cook Co., Chicago, along Lake Michigan between Foster and Addison. With T.J. Nork. "Immature. Head rather dark gray with a conspicuous white line from bill, over and behind eye; another similar line running below eye onto

cheek resulting in a masked off cheek patch. Back and wings brownish, of an entirely distinct color from the head. Tail blackish. Bill and legs dusky. Underparts pure white. Tail with inconspicuous white markings." CTC (with Nork) saw it again on 12 September.

Large-billed Tern

16 July 1949. One. IL., Cook Co., Chicago, Lake Calumet. "Seen by others till 9/28." No description or other notes. CTC saw the same bird again on 17 July when with T.J. Nork, Ellen Stephenson, Richard L. Zusi, Mr. and Mrs. Manette, and W. Smith, but gives no other notes.

Black Swift

5 September 1951. One. IL., Cook Co., Saganashkee Slough. With Ted J. Nork. "Above 'Frog Lane' at Saganashkee at about 1:15 p.m. Looked 'twice' as big as the 15 Chimney Swifts it was with. Typical swift shape. Typical swift flight, but wing beat noticeably slower than the Chimney Swifts around it. Tail long (for a swift) and slightly forked. All black. Seen for 3 minutes at close range (50-100 feet up), and for 10 minutes all together. An unbelievable rarity!!" (Note that the year is 1951, not 1953 as in Bohlen 1989. — LCB.)

Cattle Egret

10 August 1952. One adult. IL., Cook Co., Saganashkee Slough. With Bob Pringle. "Unbelievably accidental!!! Flew with neck drawn in. 'Rapid' heron flight. Size of Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron. All white except top of head, back of neck and back, which were washed with rusty; also area where neck and breast meet washed with rusty. Bill, bright yellow, apparently all around. Feet dusky or blackish. Identified after considerable book work at the Chicago Natural History Museum and talking with Rand and Blake. Also called Karl Plath and talked over the possibility of escape from Brookfield or any other U.S. zoo. Karl didn't know of any in captivity at the present time, but suggested that I write to check. Gave me names and addresses. Never got around to it.' (Clark saw Little Blue and Snowy at the same place and time; I include this record for historical reasons, as it was a state record at the time. — LCB)



Cattle Egrets. Drawing by Francia Lindon.

European Goldfinch

27 September 1953. Five, possibly seven. IL., Cook Co., Chicago, Foster at Lake Michigan. Alone. "5 possi-

bly 7, seen near the vegetable gardens at Foster. I first saw a peculiar bird that I did not recognize. It seemed to be more or less gray all over but it had a bright yellow (wide) vertical band on the wings. I saw it for about 10 seconds before it flew. I didn't know what it was — the only thing I could think of was that it may have been a European goldfinch. I continued to look and found a small flock of birds. One of these, a young one, was begging for food and was being fed by — a European goldfinch (adult). I saw the red front part of the head, the creamy side patch, and the black crown and nape; also, the broad vertical band of yellow on the wing; the brownish back; and all of the other finer points. The call was goldfinch-like, except wheezier or hoarser. When I got to the Sanctuary I saw Campbell's and Nork's cars. I rounded them up and back to Foster we tore. Luck was with us. We all had perfect views at close range, sun behind us. Birds even took a bath in a small rain puddle. There were two adults and three young, fully grown. Have to check to see if there is something unnatur-

al about this occurrence. MOST UNUSUAL RECORD!" On 25 October 1953 CTC (with Albert and Lee Campbell, T.J. Nork) saw two birds at the same place and wrote: "The European Goldfinches now have been seen by everyone who has made the effort. One individual today was so frowzy it looked as though it were molting. Could it be immature molting into adult plumage?"

Swainson's Hawk

9 May 1971. One adult light morph. IL., Lake Co., about 1 mile south of Half Day on US 45. Alone. "I was on my way to meet Larry at the Dundee Flats (SL) and, by error, continued northward on Milwaukee Ave. past Ill. 68 (which runs due east to the flats) almost to Half Day. About a mile south of Half Day I spotted a large hawk perched in a tree beside the road. I stopped (almost went on), and after viewing it through 8X (bird perched sideways), I became a bit excited. It looked suspiciously like a Swainson's. I'll cut out the details to save time. It was a light phase, adult, Swainson's. It soared almost over me for a couple of minutes. The very dark flight feathers and white wing linings, the dark upper breast, the dark tail, narrowly barred, the slight dihedral of the wings, were all plainly visible. WHAT A THRILL! All because I accidentally went too far north before turning east.

10 October 1971. One adult. IL. Lake Co., Ela Road northeast of Barrington. Alone. "An adult bird at Ela. Dusky flight feathers, white wing linings. Underparts unstreaked. Grayish tail with a noticeable dark terminal band. It was carrying a very large prey, apparently heavy enough so that its legs were hanging down somewhat. As if it were not enough to sight this very rare hawk, a Peregrine Falcon appeared and made two easy swoops at the Swainson's. With the second swoop, both birds disappeared below the tree line. They were at a distance of several hundred yards. Very remarkable sighting of two really great birds for the area."

Black-necked Stilt

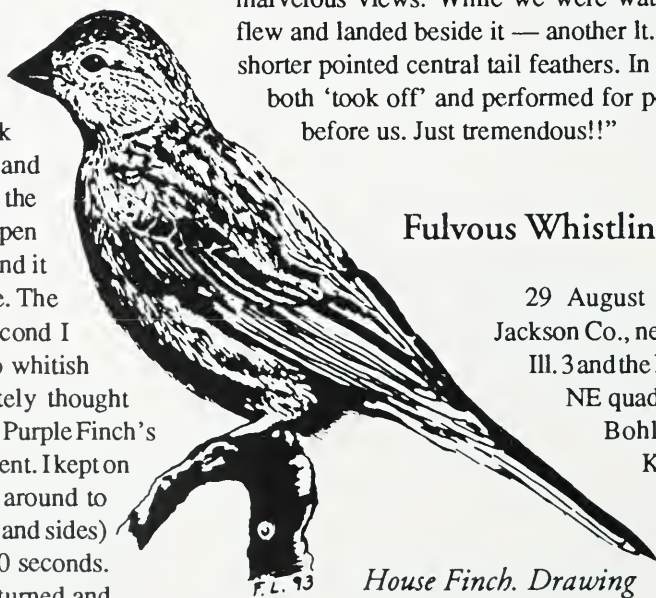
7 September 1968. One. IL., Cook Co., Chicago, Lake Calumet. With Joel Greenberg. No description. CTC saw it again on 8 September 1968 with Charles and Lorraine Westcott.

Lark Bunting

16 May 1971. One male. IL., Cook Co., Evanston, Northwestern University. With Vernon Kleen, Larry Balch, Jeff Sanders, Joel Greenberg, Bill Tweit. "Male at NW. Almost typical adult male plumage except a fair amount of white on the under tail coverts. The bill, unlike plates in books, was of two tones: upper mandible blackish, lower one light in tone. What a find!"

House Finch

1 October 1972. One female. IL., Cook Co., Chicago, Lincoln Park Sanctuary. With Jeff Sanders; met Ted and Holly Nork (who apparently did not see the House Finch). "About eye-high in an open bush, about 15 feet away. I 'shushed' and it turned its head to one side to look at me. The bird was in light shade. For a split second I thought Purple Finch, but there was no whitish eye line on the head and I immediately thought House Finch. The bill was shorter than a Purple Finch's and more rounded. This was quite apparent. I kept on 'shushing' lightly and the bird turned around to face me. The underparts (throat, breast, and sides) were streaked. I saw it for about 15-20 seconds. Then it flew up higher, out of sight. I turned and



House Finch. Drawing by Francia Lindon

called Jeff who was about 20 yards away. We searched all over but could not find it again. So we split up so we could search more effectively. About 5 minutes later I then turned and ran to get Jeff. We ran back. I could not find it but Jeff says he got a brief view of it. Before I went for Jeff I saw: no line on the head but there was a faint light area on the head where a Purple Finch's line would terminate posteriorly; somewhat blurry streaking on the underparts, and possibly a grayish rump (very momentary view). If not for the obligation to get Jeff, I would have had a very good and important study of this bird." (In footnotes, CTC explains that the two sightings may not have been the same bird, the first being seen opposite the south end of the sanctuary and the second at the northeastern corner; the second time, the bird was "in sunlight; a side view only, about 50 feet.") In his notes for 8 October, CTC wrote: "Bob Blake let me come in to the Field Museum to check House and Purple Finch skins. The difference in the bills, as described 10/1 is quite apparent in most skins. The blank face is striking. I am sure I saw a female House Finch in spite of the following: I forgot about the mustache mark in the Purple Finch, so I did not note the lack of it on this bird. I also forgot about the less notched tail; did not check this characteristic."

Parasitic Jaeger

15 October 1972. Two adult light morphs. IL. Cook Co., Glencoe beach at Park Ave. With Larry Balch and Jerry Rosenband. "Jerry spotted a Parasitic Jaeger on the water there, ad. lt. phase. With his Questar at 80X we had marvelous views. While we were watching it, another flew and landed beside it — another lt. phase adult with shorter pointed central tail feathers. In a short time they both 'took off' and performed for perhaps 5 minutes before us. Just tremendous!!"

Fulvous Whistling Duck

29 August 1974. One. IL., Jackson Co., near intersection of Ill. 3 and the Big Muddy River. NE quadrant. With David Bohlen and Vernon Kleen. "About 3/8 mile distant, 35 - 40 X

bright cloudy, sun behind. Seen feeding in stubble with Wood Ducks (ca. 150) and Mallards (ca. 20). We were up on the dike. Did not see it flying. Back of head, back of neck, and back — blackish. Underparts deep buffy. Throat whitish. White, approximately horizontal stripes, on sides. Primaries blackish. Base of tail white, end black. Slightly larger, body size, than Wood Ducks. Vern and Dave could see the bluish-gray bill. About 9:15. Randall Madding phoned me from Owensboro, Ky., 8/26 and told me that he had seen this bird 8/24 and 8/25, here, with Wm. Bell. On 8/27 I phoned Dave, who phoned Vern, who phoned someone downstate to check it out.” (Record accepted by IORC, 1990 report.)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

29 September 1974. One immature. IL., Fulton Co., Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. With Carolyn Howard, Larry Balch; also present were Tom Gantz, Jeff Sanders, Dave Bohlen, Dick Sandburg, Pat Ward, and others. “About yesterday noon, Dave Bohlen called Judy Balch and told her of the discovery of this species. Fran and I went square dancing last night. I got only 2 hours of sleep because Corrie, Larry and I left at 3 a.m. for Lake Chatauqua (sic). By walking through shore mud and water we eventually approached to within about 60 yards. About 8 a.m. With peeps including Pectorals. Slightly smaller than Pec and bearing a fair resemblance to one.

Reddish-brown cap, white line over eye, dash line through the eye. Bill dusky. Legs pale — an off yellowish. Breast bright buffy. Throat white. Breast color was not sharply separated from white of balance of underparts. At the distance, could not make out any streaks on breast. Back Pec-like. Pat Ward, and someone else, got some pictures yesterday, but they are not optimistic about the quality that they will be. They heard it call yesterday: ‘More mellow than Pec, not as high as Baird’s.’ Dave and Dick Sandburg were together when they found the bird. At quite a distance, Dave said to Dick that a bird looked like a possible Buff-breasted. Dick went back for the telescope and they got to within 50 yards of it.

Purple Sandpiper

27 October 1976. One. IL., Lake Co. Waukegan beach. Alone. “With 2 Black-bellies and about 8 Sanderlings on the beach at Waukegan. Fairly bright yellow legs, dark gray upperparts and breast. Did not get close enough to see base of bill — possibly this is why it looked all dark. Noticeably larger than the Sanderlings but substantially smaller than the Black-bellies. If the bird were to be placed according to size as a Sanderling or Black-belly — it would be sized as a Sanderling. I did not want to flush the bird for fear of scaring it away before someone else could come out. I immediately drove to a phone and called Larry. When I got back, I could not find the bird. 🐦

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